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**AMERICAN**

JANUARY 1990 VOL. 12 NUMBER 1  
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# **SURVIVAL.**

*The Magazine of Self Reliance*

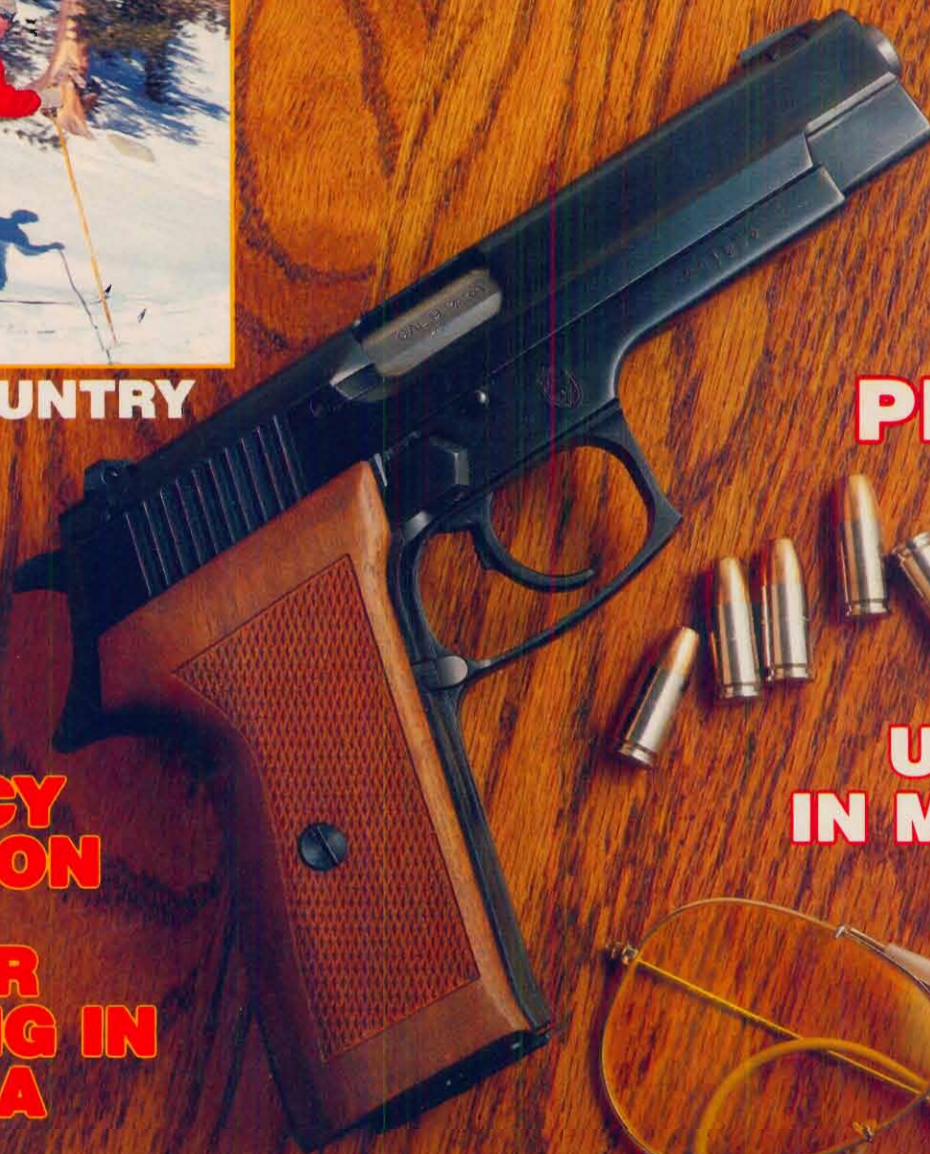
**GUIDE**



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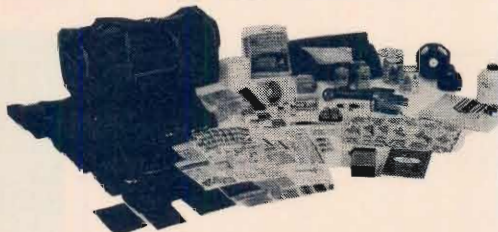
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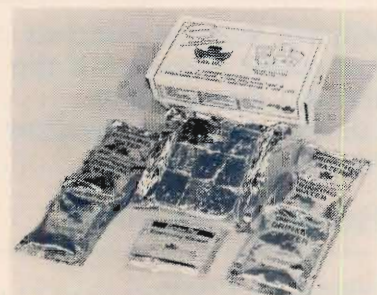
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# AMERICAN SURVIVAL

## The Magazine of Self Reliance

### GUIDE

JANUARY 1990 VOLUME 12 NUMBER 1

**COVER:**  
Win this handsome Bernardelli PO 18 9mm, 16-shot semiauto pistol, a year's storage food or other great prizes in *ASG's* 1990 Giveaway No. 1 (see pages 24, 52, Photo by Scott Stoddard). Inset: Add to your wilderness skills by learning backcountry skiing (see page 26).

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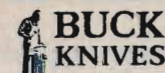
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# TO THE POINT



**Y**OU'RE going to read about me in the papers."

That's what Stockton, California, mass murderer Patrick Purdy told a bartender (California Attorney General's Report: *Patrick Edward Purdy and the Cleveland School Killings*, October, 1989) two weeks before he went on his shooting rampage a year ago at the Cleveland Elementary School with his AK-47 rifle, killing five students and injuring 29 others and a teacher before taking his own life.

Purdy, who had a long criminal record, had apparently planned for some time his attack on the helpless children attending the school, where he himself had gone as a child.

As Purdy had undoubtedly intended, the shootings drew massive national media attention.

The press people came running from far and wide across the country and around the world, and the incident was used to generate a historically unprecedented, enormous wave of mass hysteria over firearms ownership in the largely anti-gun-ownership mass media, the gullible public it influences, and among left-wing politicians.

Across the country in Louisville, Kentucky, another mentally disturbed and disgruntled man, Joseph Wesbecker, was no doubt highly interested in all the attention and notoriety Patrick Purdy got by gunning down a lot of people. Eight months later, Wesbecker, who had been retired on disability

from the printing plant where he worked, returned to the plant heavily armed and committed an act of outrageous violence closely paralleling that committed by Patrick Purdy: Wesbecker roamed the plant shooting people wherever he found them, killing and wounding several and then shooting himself to death before police could stop him.

In Wesbecker's home police found a copy of a February *Time* Magazine opened to the report of the Purdy massacre. As reported in the "Neal Knox Report" in *Shotgun News*, "Almost immediately after that *Time* article appeared Wesbecker purchased two MAC-10/11s such as Purdy had also purchased (after going through California's vaunted waiting period/screening system), then on May 1 he purchased a semi-auto AK-47S, the gun the press accounts about Purdy made famous.

"Like Purdy, Wesbecker used the AK when he went on his 30-minute rampage, killing seven and wounding 13 before killing himself with an autoloading 9 mm pistol." Purdy also, by the way, killed himself with a 9 mm pistol after shooting all the children with his AK-47S.

More recently, a student at Loara High School here in Anaheim, California, took a classroom of students hostage and shot one of them with a .22 caliber semiautomatic pistol. He later surrendered to police and it was learned he had been carrying around with him

a newspaper clipping about another high school student in Kentucky who had also taken a classroom hostage with a gun. The Anaheim student, Cory Robb, was quoted as saying, "I think what this kid in Kentucky did was real cool, although he made some mistakes."

Very shortly after the Anaheim incident, a 33-year-old man, George William Burnside, apparently distraught over the breakup of his relationship with his girlfriend, burst into her home with a shotgun, killing her son and holding her parents hostage before surrendering to police. The incident was front-page news in the *Los Angeles Times* and other media the next day.

My point in relating all this is that the media regards such violence as big "news" and plays it up heavily. The media *sensationalizes violence and trades on it*.

While so many in our largely left-leaning mass media self-righteously pontificate and editorialize about the supposed need to ban and/or severely restrict public firearms ownership, the mass media itself is, through the tremendous attention it gives people who commit such acts of violence, acting to promote that violence.

We don't know how many Joseph Wesbeckers and Patrick Purdys there are out there in our society today, but in our large, crowded, complex and stressful culture, there are certainly numerous other disturbed people like these mass killers who may well be moved to commit desperate acts of violence like Purdy and Wesbecker.

Besides our need to study the lives and motives of people like Purdy and Wesbecker, it is, in my opinion, time to question the mass media's role in influencing such people. Perhaps it's time to consider curbs on how the press reports on and, unquestionably, influences such acts of violent, anti-social behavior.

I know many in the media will rail at this proposal as an unconstitutional infringement on their First Amendment right of free speech, but since these same people so pompously disregard the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms of the public, why should we be so concerned about their abuse of the First Amendment?

— Jim Benson.



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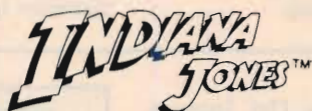
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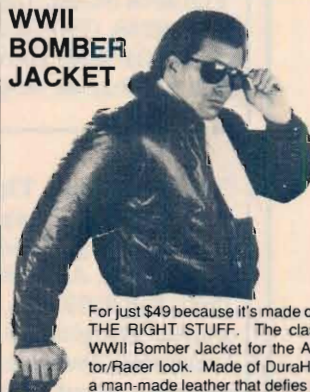
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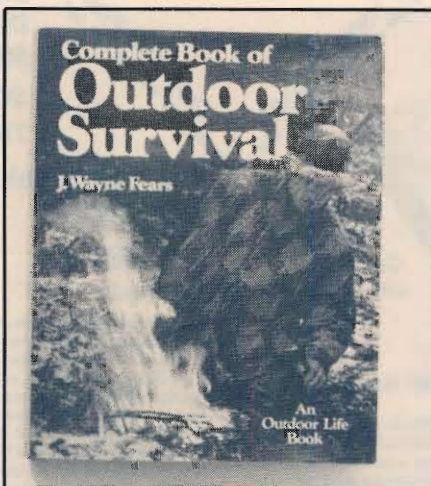
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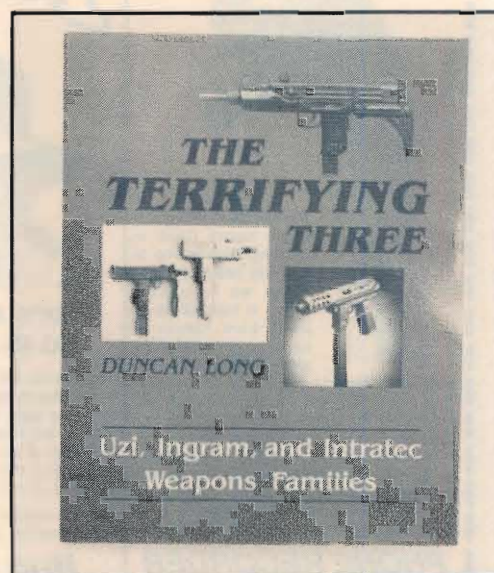


**The Complete Book of Outdoor Survival**, by J. Wayne Fears. SI Outdoor Food & Equipment, 15600 S. Figueroa Street, Dept. ASG, Gardena CA 90248; (800) 533-7415 or in Calif. (213) 324-8855. Hardcover, 485 pages; \$32.95 plus \$3 shipping.

This is almost an *encyclopedia* of outdoor survival. Learn how to handle the full range of outdoor survival crises as well as how to prevent these crises in the first place. The author explains how the challenge to a lost, injured, or stranded victim is usually far more mental than physical. He stresses the importance of calmly establishing task priorities. He then offers whole chapters on devising shelter, maintaining a fire, obtaining good water, and preparing signal devices. As to food, you learn the advantages of packing along lightweight, high-energy snacks even on routine day outings so that you won't immediately have to live off the land. Yet you'll also find well-illustrated chapters on obtaining and preparing edible plants and animals. Learn how to "lost proof" your child and how to navigate in rugged country. This is one of the most comprehensive survival books to date.

**The Terrifying Three**, Uzi, Ingram, and Intratec Weapons Families, by Duncan Long. Paladin Press, P.O. Box 1307, Dept. ASG, Boulder CO 80306; (800) 642-8300, Ext. 24; softcover, 136 pages; \$20 plus \$3.50 shipping.

Discover everything you've wanted to know about submachine guns in general and the Uzi, MAC-10, and TEC-9 in particular, including specifications for the various models and their variants. Today's submachine gun manufacturers must contend with increasingly bad press as criminals choose these weapons to commit deadly crimes, and government agencies and legislators move to further tighten restrictions on ownership of such weapons. Duncan Long thoroughly covers ammunition, care and maintenance, aiming and lighting devices, accessories and troubleshooting, and even includes a



chapter on purchasing a used firearm without getting burned.

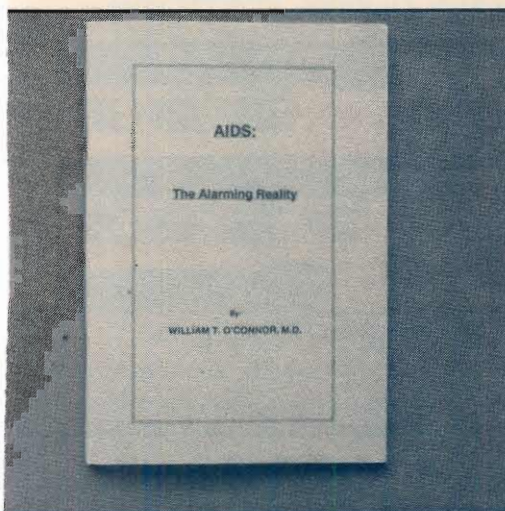
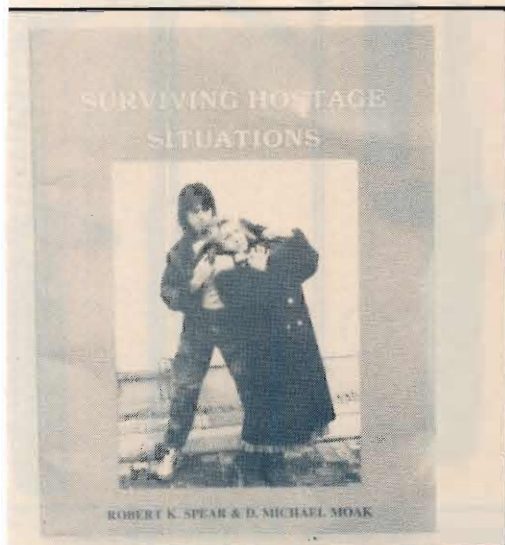
**Surviving Hostage Situations**, by Robert K. Spear and D. Michael Moak. Universal Force Dynamics, 410 Delaware, Dept. ASG, Leavenworth, KS 66048; 140 pages, softcover; \$10.95.

The approach of this book is geared toward the average man and woman who might find themselves and their families in a hostage situation. It is

a simple, specific guide as to who takes hostages and why, how to act if captured, and how to get away if an opportunity to do so arises. Learn the emotional and psychological expectations, how to cope with captivity, planning an escape, when and how to use physical resistance and many more survival techniques. Advanced prepa-



ration can sometimes be the key. This book provides you with the basic tools for surviving a terrorist attack. Many examples are taken from actual hostage situations.



**AIDS: The Alarming Reality**, by William T. O'Connor, M.D., H.I.V.E. Foundation, P.O. Box 808, Dept. ASG, Vacaville, CA 95696; 62 pages, softcover; \$5.

"Without reservation and despite any reassurances to the contrary, the viral disease commonly referred to as AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is an awesomely frightening and ominously immediate threat unparalleled in human history. Numerous realities of this disease have been selectively ignored and misrepresented to the public enough to detrimentally alter their perception of this pandemic,

(Continued on page 43)

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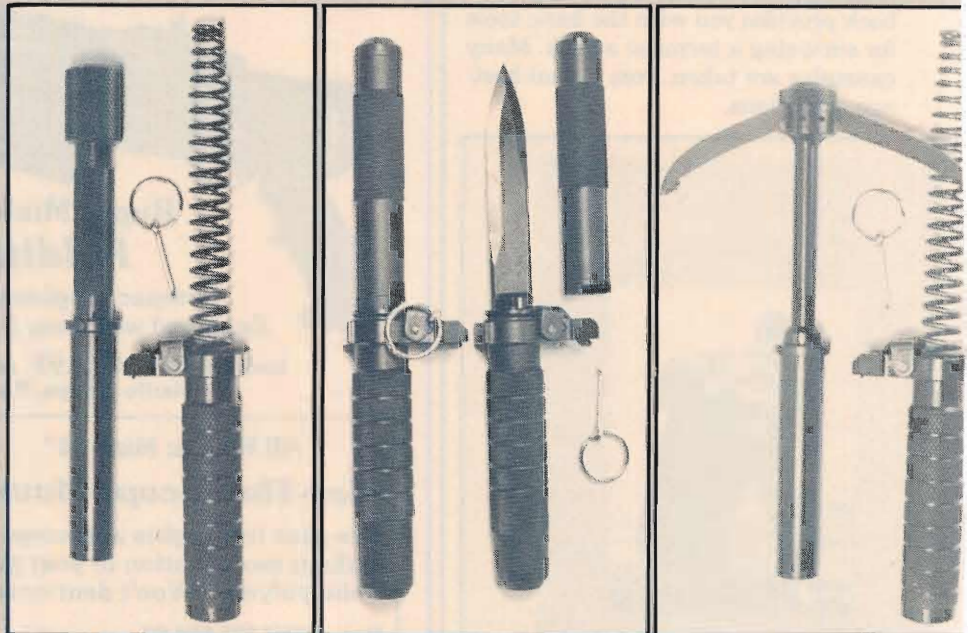
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The famous "ballistic" knife said to be issued to Soviet special purpose troops is back! Now you can own one, without the powerful spring which can propel the blade 30 feet or more. The original spring loaded version was banned by Congress but Spyre Knife Company now sells this much-sought-after piece of cutlery, made in America of rugged matte black anodized aluminum with aluminum-tempered steel blade complete with safety and cover for \$85 plus \$3.50 S&H (a spring kit is available for \$15 to authorized personnel). Spare blade assembly is \$25. Besides the KGB ballistic knife, Spyre Knife Company has developed an exciting variation: the Personal Defense System ballistic baton. The spring-launched baton was tested and penetrated ¼-inch plywood when fired from 10 to 15 feet away. The PDS comes with non-removable spring and is made of the same materials as the KGB knife.



The PDS is \$100 plus \$3.50 S&H. Expected to be available about now is a spring-launched grappling hook assembly, and spear gun or power head as-

sembly for divers. For more information or ordering, contact Spyre Knife Company, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 902, Ft. Pierce, FL 34954; 1-800-448-6503.

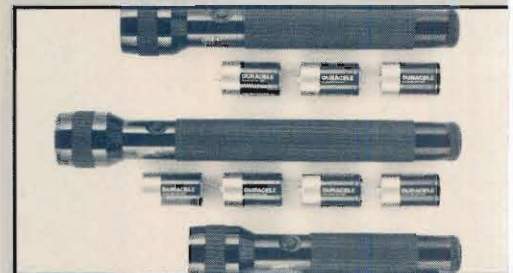


## Reversible Hunting Vest

This well made vest is for those who can use and afford the best quality camo/orange reversible hunting vest. Made for an expensive mail order house and sold for \$79.95, this made in the U.S.A. item is moisture resistant woodland camo cotton poly on one side and 100 percent acrylic blaze orange on the other. It's machine washable and made to last a lifetime. Vest features two large hook and loop fastener flapped side pockets on each side and 12 shell



holders on each side. Flap covered heavy duty poly zipper and waterproof nylon game bag attaches to either side with a zipper at the top and two snaps on the sides. Game bag is large enough for a few ducks or several doves. Available in sizes S, M, L and XL for \$39.95 plus \$2.50 S&H or two for \$75 ppd. from SI Outdoor Food & Equipment, Dept. ASG, 15600 S. Figueroa St., Gardena, CA 90247; (213) 324-8855 or 8859; outside California call toll free (800) 533-7415.



## Legend Flashlights

The Keller Company, manufacturer of the Legend line of mini-flashlights and accessories, announces a new addition to its growing line of products. The new D size Legend flashlight is available in 2, 3 and 4 cell models. These new lights feature all aluminum constructions that sports a santoprene thermoplastic rubber sleeve on the barrel and head for better grip, adjustable beam from spot to flood, push button, self-cleaning switch with silent signal, O ring sealed, individual serial numbers, two krypton lamps, 360 degree area lighting capability. These flashlights are made in the U.S.A. and offer a limited lifetime warranty. Contact Legend Customer Service Dept. at (214) 788-4254. Or write The Keller Company, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 809003, Dallas, TX 75380.



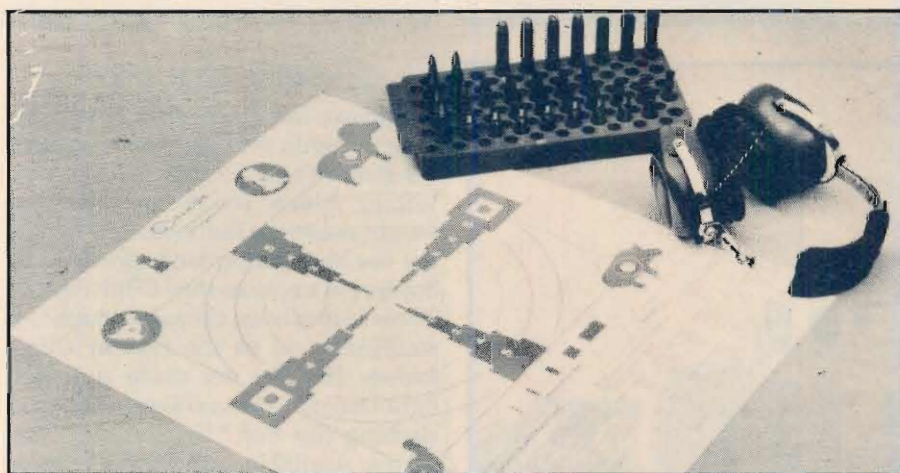
## Chris Reeve Skinner

Chris Reeve knives are known for their unique construction, high quality and durability. Each knife is made from a solid bar of A2 tool steel, giving them extreme strength for hollow handle knives. The latest addition to the fine line of Chris Reeve Knives is the Skinner, designed for hunters and survivalists. As with his other knives, the Skinner is made from a solid bar of steel, heat treated to a hardness of 55-57 RC and then sandblasted and coated with Kalgard Gun Kote and fitted with an O ring sealed butt cap. Chris then sharpens each knife, beveling the edge on a belt grinder and honing on a stone and finally polishing the cutting edge on a buff and treating the knife with a protective oil



coating. The knives are shipped with a high quality leather belt sheath. For more information about the new Skinner, which has a retail price of \$195, or

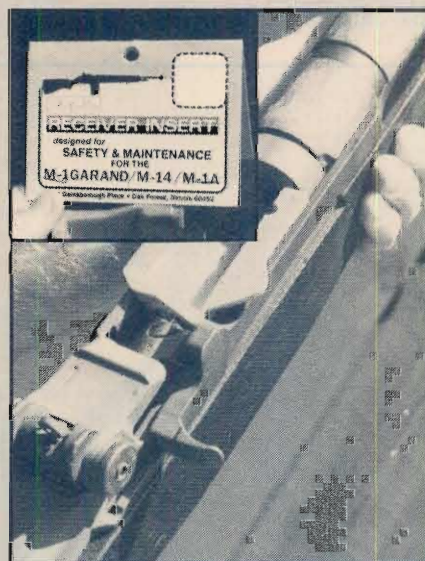
the many other fine and unique Chris Reeve Knives, contact Chris Reeve Knives, Dept. ASG, 6167 Corporal Lane, Boise, ID 83704; (208) 375-0367.



## New Unique Targets

A special multi-purpose sight-in and gaming target has been introduced by Ram-Line, Inc. Designed as a shooter's target, it actually combines nine targets in one, to improve your shooting performance and shooting pleasure. The high visibility "warm red" color allows for easy bullet hole location, even in the colored portion of the target. The color does not "bloom" out in bright light as some fluorescent inks do. The "sight-in step bars" range from 0" to 6" allowing easy scope tilt adjustment without being hidden by reticle sub-tension. The step bars in 1" increments give quick and easy shot placement. The circular rings constitute a standard pistol target. Rings are in 1" increments. Two confirmation squares, 2" x 2" with 1/2" MOA centers await

you. Try the metallic silhouette animals featured at the four corner points. Exact 1/4", 1/2" and 1" MOA rings will challenge your aim. Exclusive "Dog be Gone" liars silhouettes should end any accuracy contests with a 1/4" MOA bulls-eye on the two silhouette prairie dogs. A special feature is the inclusion of a resolution bar which indicates the quality of optics. The nine targets can be used for sharp shooting or just plain fun. Included on the bottom of the target is a complete set of scope sight-in instructions and suggested scoring for various games which is detachable for easy reference. There are 10 targets per package. Item TGT 0010. Available for \$3.95 per package from Ram-Line, Inc., Dept. ASG, 15611 W. 6th Ave., Golden, CO 80401; (303) 279-0886.



## Rifle Receiver Insert

Designed for safety and easy maintenance for the M1 Garand, M14 and M1A rifles, the P&M Receiver Insert is simple to use and holds the receiver open for bore cleaning and inspection. Make sure rifle is unloaded, point muzzle in a safe direction and fully retract bolt, apply safety and insert the receiver insert into the receiver cavity until the overhang rests on the top of the rifle's receiver walls. Seals receiver interior from cleaning solvents, allowing between match cleaning of bore and/or chamber. Available for \$5 from P&M Sales and Service, Dept. ASG, 5724 Gainsborough Place, Oak Forest, IL 60452; (312) 687-7149.



# NEW PRODUCTS

## Knife-Axe Combo

This unique, compact, lightweight and practical knife-axe two-in-one tool are 440C stainless steel with injection molded TS800 combat nylon handle that is virtually unbreakable. The knife is contained within the handle. a quarter-turn cam lock fastener releases the knife quickly and safely for easy, fast access. Axehead is weight balanced cast stainless steel to give it excellent swing head weight for maximum chopping effectiveness and the back of the axehead can be used as a hammer. Knife and axe come unsharpened. Overall length is 11". Knife measures 7" with 3" blade. Price is \$22.50 plus \$2.50 S&H from SI Outdoor Food & Equipment, Dept. ASG, P.O. 15600 S. Figueroa St., Gardena, CA 90248; (213) 324-8855 or 8859; toll free outside California (800) 533-7415.



## GOBOX 72-Hour Emergency Kit

The Staff of Life Preparedness Club is organized to help people be prepared for emergencies as considerable savings. Staff of Life (formerly Ross Packing) has 22 years experience in packaging foods for short or long term storage and is the manufacturer and distributor of personal and emergency preparedness products. The GOBOX is a 72-hour emergency preparedness kit available for a family of four. All you need to go with it is sleeping gear and approximately three gallons of water. The GOBOX contains a Dynamo radio

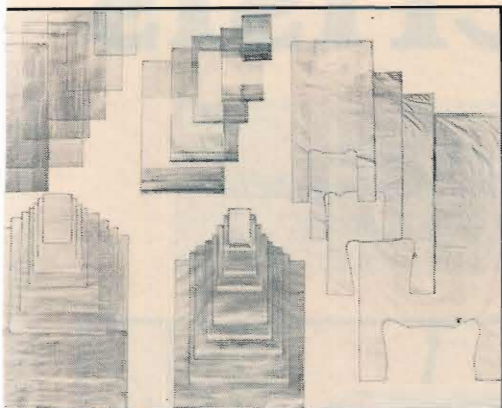
with AM/FM reception, flash light and built-in nicad rechargeable battery with AC/DC adapter and hand-crank generator; all-in-one tool, 36 hearty meals ready to eat (MREs) stove, bowls, tumblers, utensils, water purifier, first aid kit, matches, detergent, toilet tissue and towels. The GOBOX is designed for immediate evacuation. Just grab it and run. Retail price is \$149.95 plus shipping. Club price is \$109.95 plus shipping. Utah residents add \$6.88 sales tax. Order from Staff of Life Preparedness Club, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 396, Midvale, UT 84047; (801) 561-5615.

## Spyderco Zytel Clipits

Spyderco introduces their first lightweight Clipits, available in two models, the Endura and the Delica. These new locking folders are designed for the weight conscious individual still desiring the high performance provided by Spyderco's stainless steel Clipit folders. These blades boast the same tough G-2 stainless steel as the regular Clipit folders. Handles are made of tough, light Dupont Zytel and feature integral clothing clip and "Volcano-grip" texturing. Available with SpyderEdge or PlainEdge. Contact Spyderco, Inc., Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 800, Golden, CO 80402-0800; (303) 279-8383 or 1-800-525-7770.

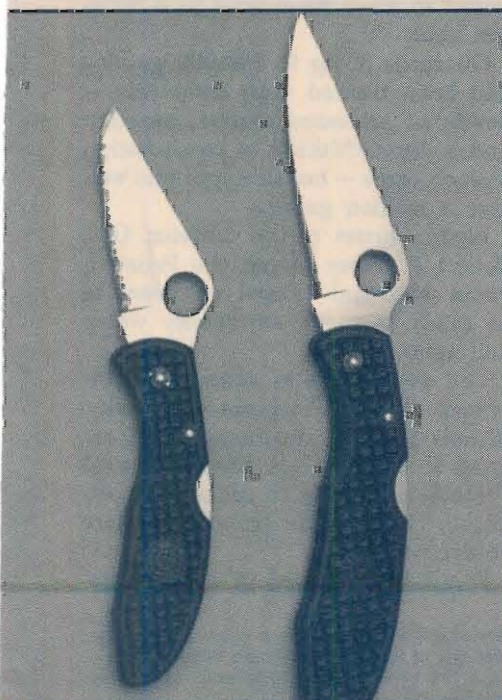






### Poly Bag Assortment Packs

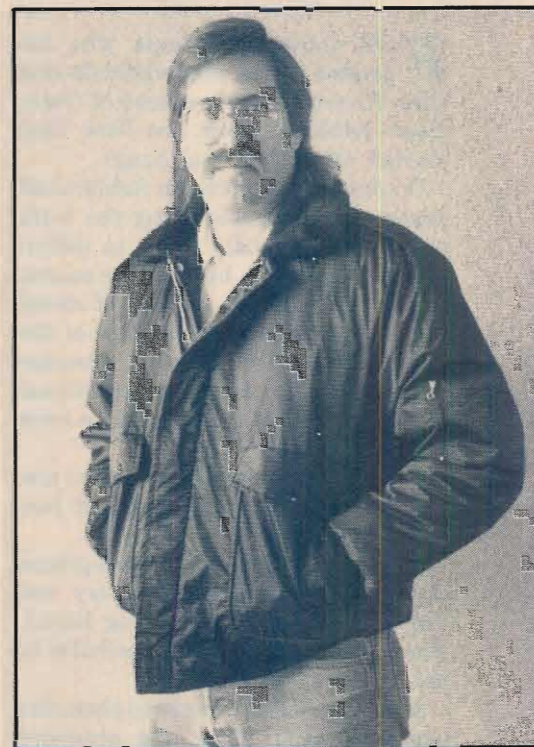
The Saket Company has come up with five different "assortment packs" of clear, zip-close bags, clear poly bags, hi-clarity cellophane bags and white carryout bags to meet various packaging needs. These assortment packs will benefit industry, offices and individuals who need many different sized bags, allowing them to take advantage of wholesale quantity pricing without having to buy thousands of each size. A free price list shows all the combinations that you can receive. Prices start as low as \$25 (credit card orders accepted). For more information write or call: The Saket Company, Dept. ASG, 7249 Atoll Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91605-4105; (818) 764-0110.



### Brell Mar ASAT Camo Clothing

Brigade Quartermasters has recently entered a licensing agreement with Brell Mar Products allowing them to produce a full line of products using Brigade's exclusive ASAT (All Season, All Terrain) camouflage. ASAT camouflage was developed by veteran bowhunters Jim Barnhart and Stan Star Jr. to be virtually invisible to wildlife in any terrain, any season. Field tests have proven it to be 90 percent more natural looking to game than conventional types of camouflage. ASAT is patterned after the vertical shapes and shadows found in nature. The new Brell Mar ASAT line featured in Brigade's

new catalog and retail stores includes: Hide-Um-Cheap Slipover Suit; Mesh Head Mask; Die Cut Blinds and Concealment Panels; Mesh Suit; Pole Blinds. To obtain a copy of Brigade's catalog with the Brell Mar line of ASAT camouflage and hundreds of other products geared to the survivalist and outdoors enthusiast, send \$1 to Brigade Quartermasters, Dept. ASG, 1025 Cobb International Blvd., Kennesaw, GA 30144-4300; or call (404) 428-1248.



### Navy Bomber Jacket

Here's a cold weather special for the big and bigger sized men. SI's supplier of B-15 black sateen Navy Bomber Jacket had a cancellation on a huge order of big sizes in this new imported jacket and gave SI a low price to move them quickly. Twenty-seven inches long, with tough rich black sateen fabric with 16-ounce quilting and fur-like collar, snap covered zipper and water-resistant fabric mean this jacket will keep you warm in the worst weather. Available in XL and XXL sizes only for \$37.50 postpaid (regularly \$59.95 ppd.) from SI Outdoor Food & Equipment, Dept. ASG, 15600 S. Figueroa St., Gardena, CA 90248; (213) 324-8855 or 8859; outside California call toll free (800) 533-7415. ●



## Massive Spill:

# Water/Oil Crisis

*In January 1988 an Ashland Oil storage tank burst open, releasing 3 million gallons of diesel fuel into the Monongahela River and creating the worst inland oil spill in U.S. history. . .*

By Leonard Rycerz, Jr.

**F**OR those individuals who depended on the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers for their source of fresh, clean drinking water, the New Year started off with a real bang!

On January 2, 1988, an Ashland oil storage tank, located along the bank of the Monongahela River in Jefferson, Pennsylvania, burst at the seams, releasing 3 million gallons of diesel fuel. The debris from the force of the rupture then tore open a gasoline tanker, letting loose an additional 20,000 gallons of gasoline in an even worse disaster.

The worst inland oil spill in the history of the United States had just started.

As soon as they could, workers placed air bags around the spill to try and contain some of the escaping liquid. The workers also plugged the holes in the ruptured gas tank.

Authorities were concerned about the explosive vapor that was produced



Army vehicles with water mules attached were sent to Wheeling to deliver water to those residents who needed it.

when diesel fuel and gasoline are mixed.

The smell of the mixed fuels could be detected as far south as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. But health officials said there was no threat from the smell.

With the weather windy and extremely cold, the 20-mile long oil slick began to move down river at 3 miles per hour.

Oil spills of up to 100,000 gallons had been treated with chemicals — powdered activated carbon, aeration and sodium chloride in combination with chlorine — but this spill was well over a million gallons.

Within hours of the disaster, Gov. Robert P. Casey placed the Pennsylvania National Guard on alert to be ready to make emergency water deliveries.

The governor also urged the governors of West Virginia, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, and members of Congress to ask the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to declare the situation a federal spill, bringing in more government help.

Families that lived in a 10-square-



Wheeling work crews place a 6-inch plastic pipe over one of the bridges between Wheeling and Ohio. The pipe was used to transport emergency water supplies.





Water mules from the military were placed in the Wheeling Civic Center where water was dispensed to citizens.

mile area near the collapsed facility were moved to a high school south of Pittsburgh because of the potentially explosive vapor that was produced by the two fuels. They were allowed to return to their homes in 12 hours.

Evidence of the spill was a dirty brown color on the surface of the water, and dead fish. Some of the fish were bottom feeders, indicating the spill was deep below the surface.

The cause of the collapse was soon under investigation, but no leads could be found as to why the storage tank broke apart.

Meanwhile, as the spill flowed into the Ohio River from the Monongahela River (the flow of the two rivers were a bit slower than usual because of the cold weather), most communities were unconcerned because they got their water from underground wells. Though, if the water level in these wells decreased to a very low point, the forces of nature would draw contaminated river water into those wells. Then those residents would really have a problem.

But this wasn't the case for all the cities lying along the banks of the Ohio River. And in these cities local city officials started making plans for dealing with the oil monster.

East Liverpool, Ohio, became the

first upper Ohio Valley community to be struck by the oil menace. But the city that was to be the most affected by the floating nightmare on the Ohio River was Wheeling, West Virginia, which provided water for 60,000 residents.

Unfortunately, several months ago, the city of Wheeling had to put five 1-million-gallon tanks out of commission. This meant that if the city's water plant was shut down for more than six hours, water shortages would begin to appear throughout the city.

In the meantime, clean up efforts around the site of the spill proceeded slowly. State and federal personnel were trying to assess the damage. Boat traffic was also restricted in those portions of the river affected by the spill.

As the glob of oil — now 50 to 70 miles long with the actual portion that was harmful 14 to 15 miles long — continued to move, the word in Wheeling was "DON'T PANIC!" Though, Wheeling city officials were inundated with phone calls.

Wheeling city crews began placing 6-inch plastic pipe across the Aetnaville and Conrail Bridge to transport water from Ohio to Wheeling.

West Virginia Gov. Arch A. Moore,

Jr. also made available state owned trucks to transport water to Wheeling and surrounding communities. Officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the EPA, the Coast Guard and Ashland Oil also came to Wheeling to provide assistance. A water conservation plan was established.

An Ashland company spokesman acknowledged the fact that the oil tank that collapsed was constructed in 1986 from steel used in a 40-year-old tank, and that the steel was attached to a new foundation.

Ashland also admitted that their engineers departed from industry standards by not performing a full hydro test: a test in which the tank is filled to capacity to check for leaks.

**Oil Monster Strikes** — On Friday, January 9, 1988, when Wheeling residents were filling everything that could hold water, when neighbor was helping neighbor (though there were those neighbors and individuals who only cared for themselves), when businesses, notably McCann Distributing, were passing out bottled water, the oil monster struck.

At that time, the officials who were gathered at the Warood Filtration



A water analyst examines water at the Warood Water Plant for diesel fuel and gasoline contamination.



# Water/Oil Crisis



Plant noticed a strong odor coming from the water. It was then that Wheeling City Manager Mike Nau ordered the river intake valves closed.

At that precise moment, the city went to its reserve water supply of 9 million gallons, and the use of four barges (donated by Ashland) to haul water from Wheeling Creek to the water treatment plant.

Once there, the water would be treated and put into tanker trucks which would deliver the water to areas where shortages were sure to occur.

But, water problems were only the beginning for the city of Wheeling under siege by the creature of oil.

Once the river intake valves were closed, the water level in the reserve tanks began to drop. By 2 p.m. Saturday, the level of water had dropped to five feet. By 3 p.m., the level of water was only three feet.

The dramatic drop in water occurred because some residents ignored conservation methods or started stockpiling after the water shutdown.

That same day a major fire broke out, destroying a home located at the Olgaby Park Estates. The house was fully engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived. Since the house could not be saved, the firemen followed normal procedures.

Worse yet was an 8-inch water main break in Bethlehem, West Virginia, followed by two more water pipe breaks.

This last bit of calamity made city

officials decide it was time to instruct all businesses in the Ohio County to close. Grocery stores, drug stores, gas stations and hospitals were the only essential businesses that could remain open.

With the city's water supply in peril, and the weather cold and windy, things looked pretty dismal for the residents of Wheeling.

By 5 p.m. that same day (Saturday) water was being pumped from the four tanker barges, each containing 1 million gallons of water, into the city's filtration system.

In addition, divers attempted to install sponge filters over the two river intake valves to help remove the oily substance to permit successful treatment of the water.

It was not until late Monday evening that the river intake valves were ordered back open. But, even with the valves open conservation methods were still being followed.

In the meantime, the flaw that had caused the oil storage tank to burst open had been discovered: it was a dime-size tear in the aging metal that caused a zipper-like crack, tearing the storage tank apart.

By the evening of January 12, the oil spill began to pass by Wheeling and head toward Sistersville, West Virginia.

Once the oil creature had passed, water restriction was eased, but the remnants of the spill, and the problems created by the spill, were very evident.

Wheeling residents were warned not to use spring water during the oil spill crisis but this resident is stocking up on it anyway.

Fish gathered from the Ohio River were found to have low levels of three chemicals; therefore, it was recommended by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission that individuals use discretion in deciding to eat the fish they caught.

Also absent from the river were some fish and birds who had not been able to nest properly. But, the oil monster had the most affect on the river upstream of Parkersburg, West Virginia. Though it would be a long time before environmentalists would be able to determine the damage done to wildlife by the glob of oil.

Even worse was the fact that EPA officials began receiving reports that industries were illegally dumping chemicals into the Ohio River, using the oil spill as camouflage for their dumping.

Eventually, the massive oil spill, or what was left of it, ended up in the Gulf of Mexico. It was a disaster that should've never happened. Yet it did happen, and many people were caught unprepared.

When it was all over, Wheeling City Manager Mike Nau had this to say: "I just hope we never have to go through this again."

Only the future holds the answer to that question. ●



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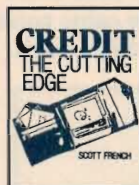
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SI:

# Military Ponchos

*Three types of surplus military survival gear. . .*

## Staff Report

**R**EADERS may recall our article on ponchos (November 1988 issue) in which it was noted that ponchos have many uses and are in demand year round — in every season — by troops, campers, hunters, survivalists and outdoors enthusiasts.

SI Outdoor Food & Equipment is selling three types of surplus military ponchos in used good and excellent condition.

The more recent issue ponchos avail-

able are olive drab ripstop nylon waterproof ponchos and hard to find U.S. Marine camouflage ripstop nylon ponchos. These are lighter than the ones issue to our troops in Vietnam and are preferred by backpackers and hunters. Once size fits all. They can be folded compactly and used for a variety of purposes. The O.D. ripstop ponchos are \$12.95 plus \$2.50 S&H each and the Marine camo ponchos are \$17.95 plus \$2.50 S&H each.

Additionally, SI carries the older heavy rubberized military ponchos. These are the same as the newer ponchos but with a heavy rubber coating for extremes of weather and exceptional durability. These are used good and excellent condition also and sell for \$17.95 each plus \$2.50 S&H.

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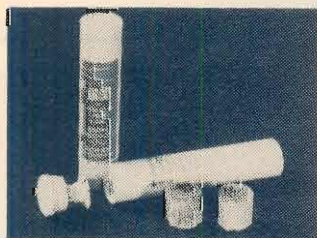
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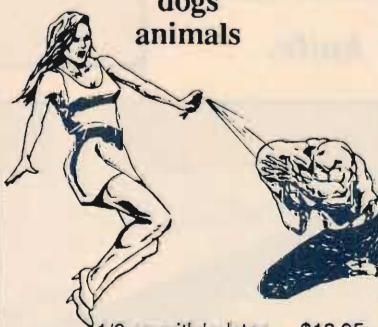
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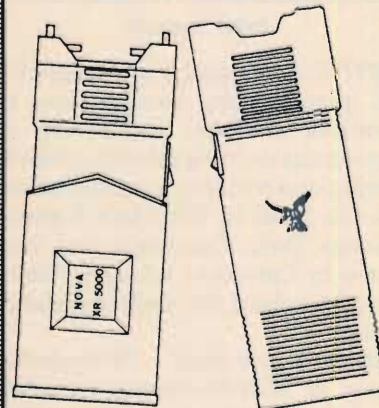
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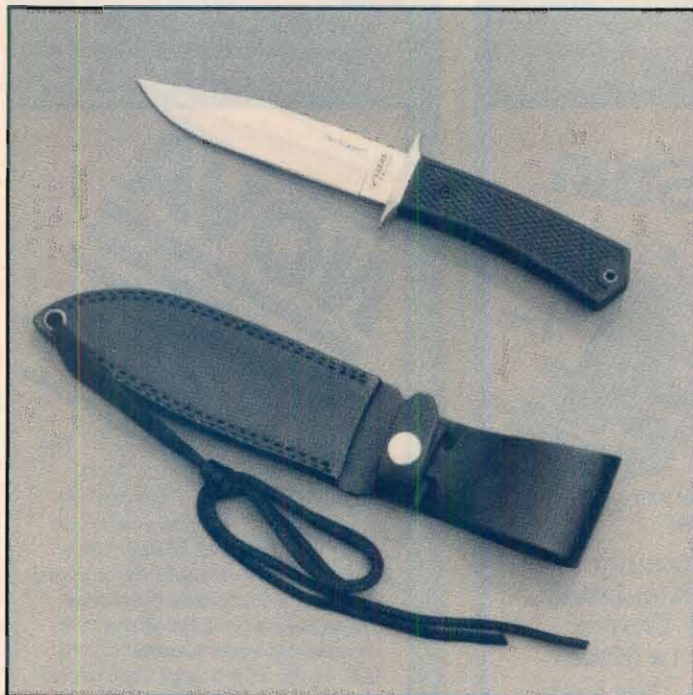
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Catoctin Cutlery:

# Archangel I



## Staff Report

**T**HE Archangel I is designed for parachutists, backpackers, survivalists, outdoors enthusiasts and anyone else desiring minimum size and weight and maximum performance in a knife. Made by Blackjack Knives in Canoga Park, California, and distributed by Catoctin Cutlery in Smithsburg, Maryland, the knife offers unique features.

Its 5¼-inch-long, .197-inch-thick blade is AUS-8A chrome vanadium steel for superb edge-holding ability. It has been cryogenically heat tempered to 58 RC hardness. The deep hollow grind of the blade has a higher than normal bevel on the cutting edge for maximum cutting performance. The full-tang Archangel I has a black checkered Kraton handle for a sure grip under all conditions. Overall length is 9½ inches. Weight is just 6.5 ozs. The Archangel comes with a strong, well made black leather sheath.

Suggested retail is \$114.95. For more information contact your cutlery dealer or Catoctin Cutlery, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 188, Smithsburg, MD 21783; (301) 924-7416. ●

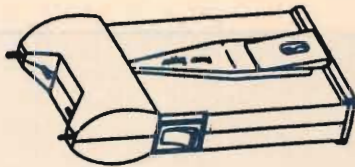
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Protect your children from the dangers of radioactive iodide destroying the thyroid. Millions of tablets were shipped to children in Europe after Chernobyl. Also important for adults and animals. Package of 70 is enough for 5 people. Instructions included. #1334



**70 TABLETS \$13.50 ppd.**

SURVIVAL, INC. (SI)  
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(213) 324-8855

Outside California call TOLL FREE for credit card orders (800) 533-7415.

Please send me the following:

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_  
CA residents add 6% tax  
Send \$2.00 for 48 page catalog

## GENUINE G.I.

### O.D. Ripstop Poncho



## Issued/Excellent

Genuine G.I. issue ripstop poncho. These are O.D. ripstop, waterproof ponchos that are large enough to cover a large pack and can even be used as a temporary shelter very lightweight and durable. One size fits all. Can be folded very compactly. Used-Excellent with only small holes or repairs. Brand new these sell for up to \$40.00 #0528

**\$12.95 + 2.50 S&H**

### Marine Camo Ponchos



## Issued/Excellent

We have found a supply of high quality Marine camo ponchos with the same features and quality as the O.D. ones offered on this page. These are 90% new and we can offer them for less than 40% of the usual \$40.00 price. #0528C

**\$14.95 + 2.50 S&H**

### Heavy Duty Rubberized Ponchos Issued- Very Good



This is the one proven in Nam and will protect from heaviest rainfall. Two snap together for tent. A premium item that sells for \$59 new if you can find one. #P780

**\$14.95 + 3.00 S&H**



Magnum Research:

# PO 18 9mm Pistol

By Jim Benson

*Sleek new Italian import with plenty of firepower. . .*

**W**HILE the V. Bernardelli Italian-made PO 18 double action semi-automatic pistol is not entirely new, the handsome and elegant redesigned version in 9 millimeter Parabellum (NATO) being imported to the U.S. is new and, from our experience with it, we're sure it will be highly regarded by American shooters.

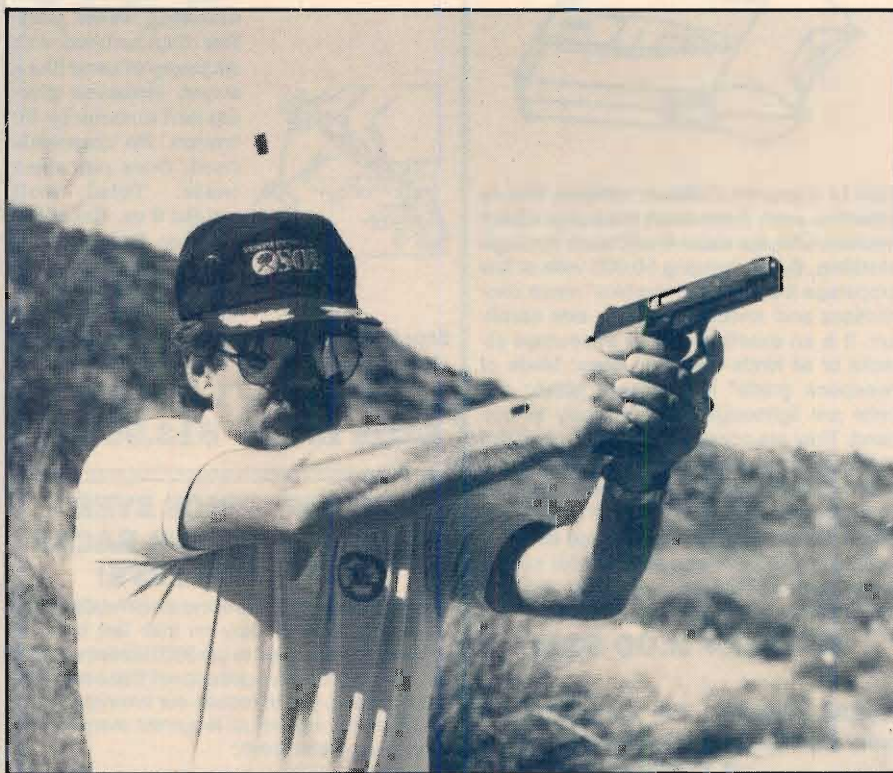
The good folks at Magnum Research, Inc., of Minneapolis, have donated one of these outstanding pistols as one of the top prizes in ASG's 1990 Giveaway No. 1 contest (see details pages 52,53). The redesigned PO 18 is actually one gun in a line of Bernardelli handguns and shotguns distributed in this country by Magnum Research. We'll be doing reviews on some of the other guns in upcoming issues. Besides the 17-shot (16 in the magazine plus 1 in the chamber) standard PO 18, Magnum Research has a compact version with 14-round magazine.

The PO 18 has all the features offered in today's best 9 mm DA handguns and then some. Besides the sleek lines of the pistol and its deep blue finish, there are two types of grips available: checkered black plastic and a rich walnut. The forged all-steel construction PO 18 has the American-style magazine release button located at the rear of the trigger guard and it's reversible for left-handed shooters.

There's also a lanyard ring on the left side of the butt, adding to the military-like look of this pistol.

The recoil-operated, locked-breech PO 18 has a thumb-operated external slide-blocking safety for carrying it in the "cocked and locked" mode with a round in the chamber. If you prefer to carry it with a round chambered and the hammer down, you may do so with relative safety with the knowledge that the PO 18 also has a firing pin block safety and trigger disconnect safety. Additionally, there's a half-cock position for the hammer.

The top of the slide is serrated to reduce glare. The sights are dovetailed into the slide with a three white dots



to assist the shooter in rapid sight picture acquisition. The rear sight square notch is screw adjustable for windage. Despite its all-steel construction the PO 18 is not particularly heavy, weighing in with empty magazine at 2 lbs., 3½ ozs.

Disassembly for cleaning is fast and requires no tools. The empty gun is cocked, the slide is drawn rearward to align notches on the slide stop and frame and the slide stop is then pushed out and removed. The slide then is drawn forward off the frame rails and removed and the barrel assembly is lifted out of the slide.

**Range Testing** — We took the PO 18 to a public shooting area in the southern California mountains with several types of 9 mm ammunition, including some full metal jacket 124-grain Chinese cartridges, some American Eagle FMJ 115-grain rounds and some Federal 147-grain Hydra-Shock jacketed hollow point stuff.

*(Continued on page 66)*




The redesigned Italian-made PO 18 is an elegant, accurate and smooth functioning pistol.





The Bernardelli P.Q. 18 9 mm Pistol is shown here with accessories available for it from Magnum Research, Inc.: black right-hand Cordura nylon hip holster (left-hand also available); hat, shoulder patch and lapel pin.





## Wilderness Skills:

By Scott Stoddard

**B**eing outdoors in the winter is invigorating. And with each new snowfall, there's a virgin, untracked world to explore. One of the best and fastest ways to travel in snow country is on a pair of cross-country skis. In fact, before there were steam engines or airplanes, skiers were the fastest humans on the planet.

Cross-country skiing is also called Nordic skiing. Rock carvings dating to about 2,500 B.C. have been found at Rødøy, a Norwegian island just north of the Arctic Circle. It was probably in Norway where man first strapped wooden boards on his feet to walk up and slide down the mountains in winter.

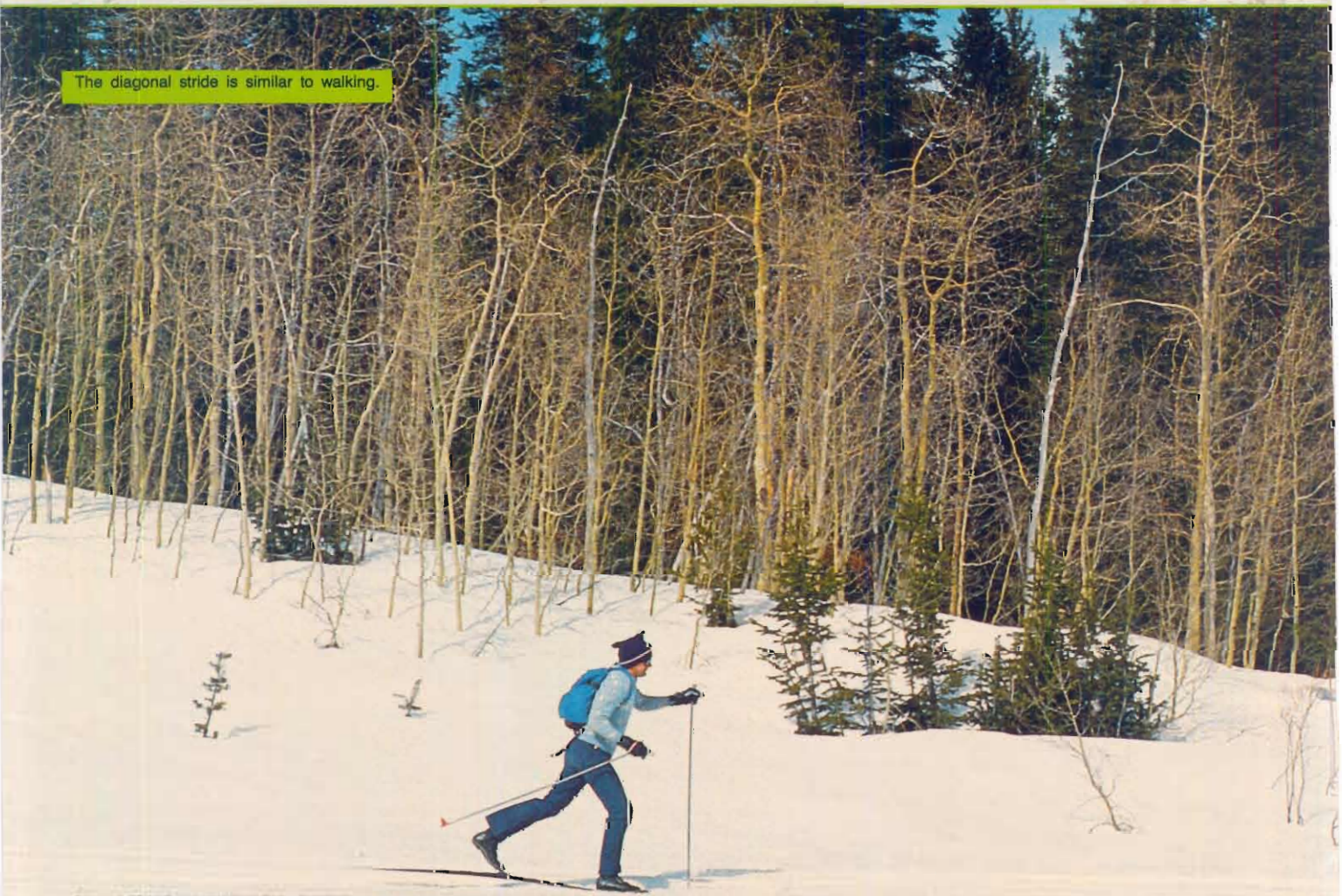
(Continued on page 64)

# Backcountry Skiing

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*With a backpack and your skinny skis  
there's no chance of contracting cabin fever. . .*

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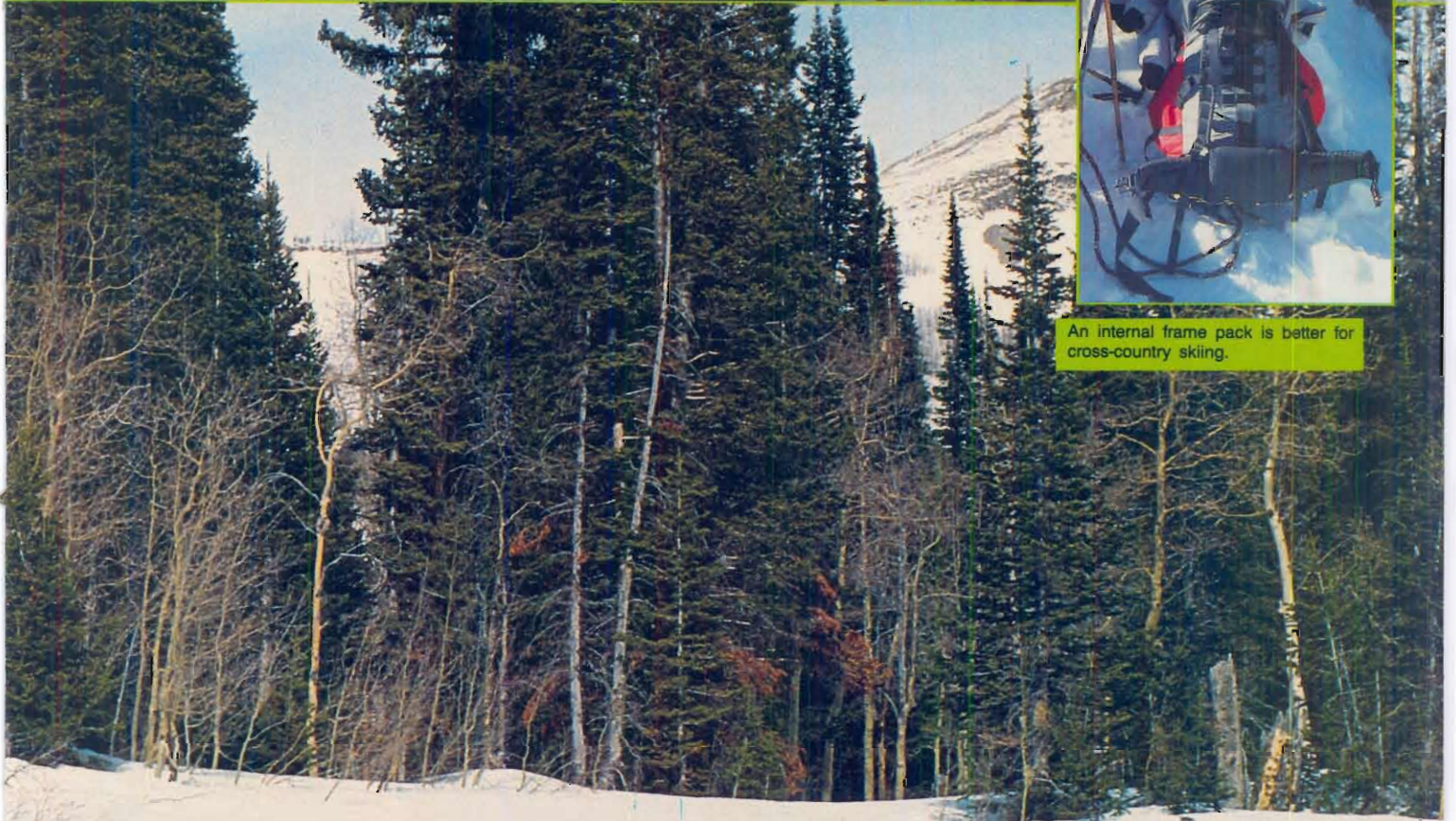


The diagonal stride is similar to walking.





Cook meals with lots of calories. Hot beverages are good too.



An internal frame pack is better for cross-country skiing.



Modern Technology, Ancient Methods:

# Snare Power

*Snares can keep you well fed, make you money, come to your defense...*

By John Messineo

A IRCRAFT cable does more than hold planes together, it can provide you with food and even act as a defense system.

Snares fashioned from such cable make fast-acting, sure-holding traps. Trappers have known about snares for generations, but today's technology has pulled the snare out of the dark ages and turned it into a finely tuned instrument.

Gone is the flimsy wire with an open "eye" for the loop to slide through. Today's cable snares are equipped with fast-acting and sure-holding locks. These features insure that the snare will make a quick and secure catch.

Snares cause mixed reactions in different states. In some states it is illegal to use them while in other states snares are the only legal means to take furbearers. Check your state's

The small snare is used for catching animals such as martin, mink and muskrat. The larger snare is for bear.



A number 4 Gregerson snare is good for many types of animals.

A rabbit and coyote trail, a good location for a snare.





This trapper is placing a snare in a path that goes under a fence. This set (a place where a trap is located) is called a crawl-under. This trap is being set for a raccoon.

regulations before you use snares for recreation since some states have restrictive regulations. For example, Colorado allows snares for taking furbearers but not for the taking of game animals such as rabbits.

Good quality snares make excellent survival and everyday food gathering equipment. But you must keep a few things in mind. One snare is not going to supply you with much in the way of food. Sure, it only takes one snare to catch an animal, but that snare must be set in the correct place. If an animal doesn't go through the snare, you have no chance of catching it. Snares, while good tools, are not perfect. They do miss catching animals that come along. They miss because the animal bumped the snare and it closed before the animal put its head through the loop. They also miss because wind blew the snare and it was closed when the animal came along. An excellent snareman whom I know figures two misses for each catch. And this is from a man who knows his business.

To rely on snares as a means of gathering food you need to depend on numbers. Large quantities of snares

put the odds in your favor. But no matter how many snares you put out, if they are not in the correct places you'll have no catch. You need large numbers of snares because in addition to covering an area, snares that do make a catch are often destroyed. Raccoons in particular negate the second use of a snare cable. Though the locks and swivels are often reusable, the cable nearly always needs replacing.

So, how many snares should you have? If one is too few what number is too many? It depends on what you plan for your snares. If you only want to carry some in a day pack or survival pack, four to six may be enough. If you hope to run a long trapline to earn extra money, 300 may be a more realistic figure. If you think that quantity is high, consider this. I know of one longline raccoon trapper who takes over 200 coon a year with snares. Every one of those snares has to be replaced to keep his line working. Now consider the snares he had set that never connected. In a given season he may handle 500 snares.

Those are the extremes. We may all want to have a few snares in our pack, but few of us will want to deal with

a full time trapline. Two or three dozen good quality snares will fit the demands and needs of most of us.

Right here and now I'll tell you of my views of snares made from monofilament fish line or thin wire. I wouldn't waste my time with any of them. The monofilament snare is hard to set and it is equally as hard to keep in operating order. They are blown about in the wind and don't hold their shape very well. Thin wire snares are also poor performers. They hold shape better but they are not very strong.

The first snare I used was homemade from two strands of thin copper wire that I had twisted together. It had a self-locking eye and was of the correct stiffness to hold the loop open.

I placed it in a beaver run, hoping to add to the camp meat supply while on an elk hunting trip. Well, I did everything right in selecting the spot to catch the beaver. I caught it all right, but I didn't hold it for long. Once in the snare the beaver put up a good fight, and, by the looks of things, did a lot of twisting and rolling. At any rate the beaver out-muscled the snare, and the broken wires contained only a few beaver hairs.

These types of snares do work. They work fine for rabbits, squirrels and other small animals. However, a snare that can catch and hold only a very small animal is of limited use.

**Survival Situation** — In a survival situation one small animal is not going to make that much difference in whether you live or die. A rabbit will supply you with a pound or so of meat, while a beaver will often tip the scale at over 35 pounds. It is for this reason that I feel a person should opt for the stronger cable snares.

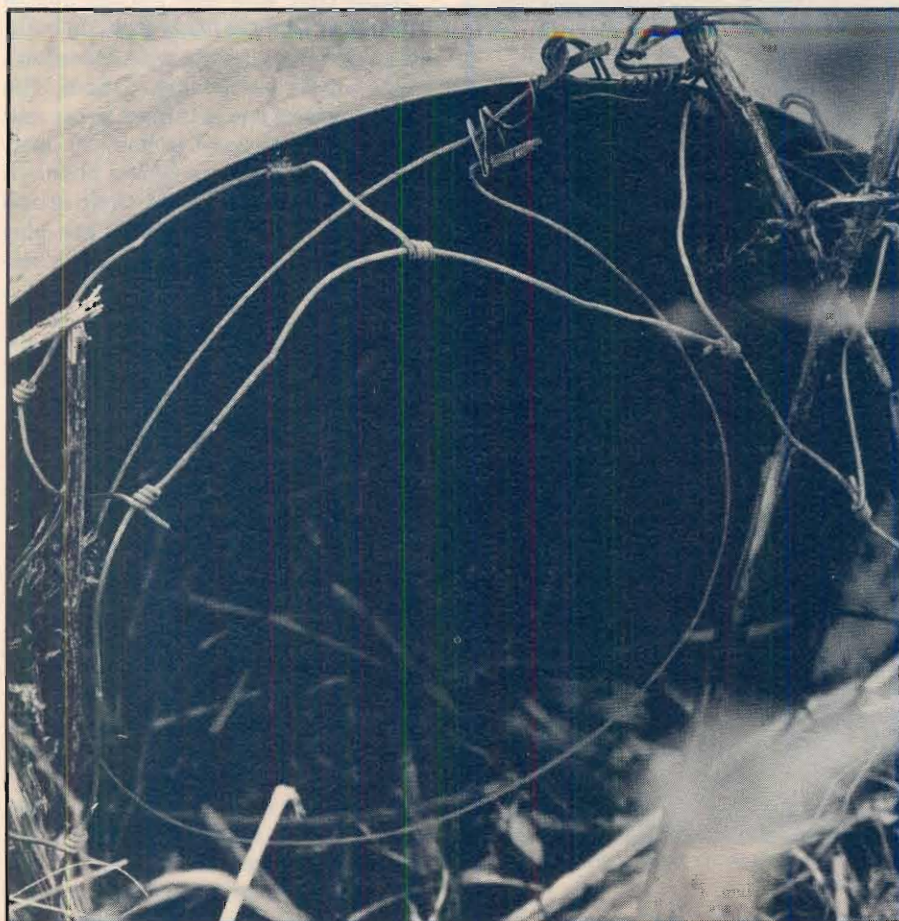
A cable snare doesn't rule out catching squirrels or rabbits, it just expands your catch to include such animals as raccoon, beaver, coyote and even bobcat.

When good trappers use snares they can target the animal they intend to take. Most important they know how to avoid catching unwanted animals. Deer are a good example of an animal that trappers avoid. Often a location that will produce coyotes is along a cattle or game trail. A poorly constructed snare set can catch deer. By the way, the deer will not be caught around the neck, they will be caught by the foot.

It is a very simple matter to make deer avoid the snare. A stick placed on an angle over the top of the snare will cause the deer to jump the snare.



# Snare Power



This snare is placed in a culvert for raccoon. This set made use of an old piece of fence to help guide the 'coon through the snare. Notice how the snare is perpendicular to the ground and not parallel.

Some of the newer types of cable snares are designed with locks that breakaway when an accidental catch of a deer is made. This is fine for fur trapping and everyday food gathering. In a survival situation you'll need to hold on to whatever you catch.

Cable snares come in various sizes or gauges of galvanized aircraft cable. Usually from  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{3}{32}$  of an inch. They are even offered in a variety of twists, such as 7x7 or 1x19. Top snaremen prefer certain diameter cable coupled with the "right" twist to use on different animals.

This shouldn't concern the beginning snare user at all. Snares are sold by sizes that are matched to the animals you intend to catch. As a general rule I think the best all-around size is Gregerson's number 4. This is coyote, beaver and raccoon size.

Since you can take animals by using steel traps or by hunting, why then should you consider using a device that has been used by man since about 15,000 B.C.? Because snares can offer

an efficient and low cost means of providing for yourself. They also offer a quiet way to harvest animals. Snares can be set so the animal is caught around the neck and is found dead when you check the set. If a snared animal is still alive when you arrive to dispatch the animal. The short is a relatively quiet round. In situations

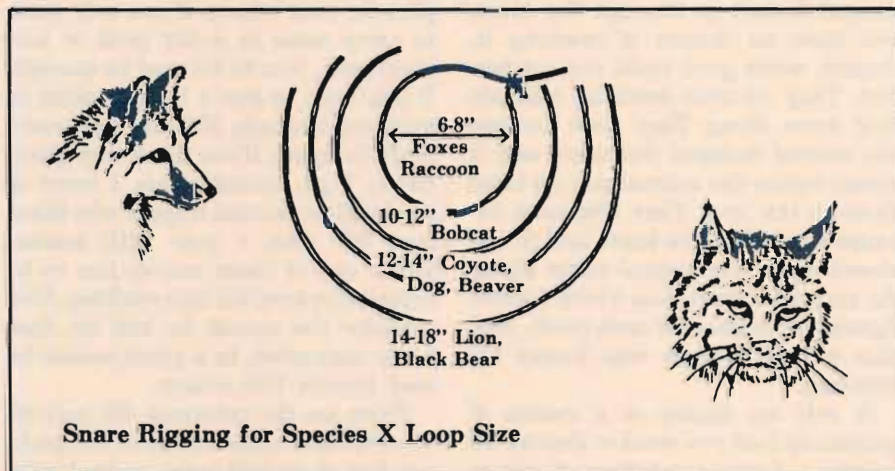
where no noise is a requirement, a club can be used. When I say club, I don't mean you have to bludgeon the animal to death. A sharp blow to the head, "between the eyes" like the old slaughter house method, is quick and efficient.

Telling you how to dispatch the animal may be putting the horse before the cart. I need to tell you how to get the animal in the snare in the first place. Catching any animal requires some knowledge of the animal's habits. You must have the snare in a location that the animal uses.

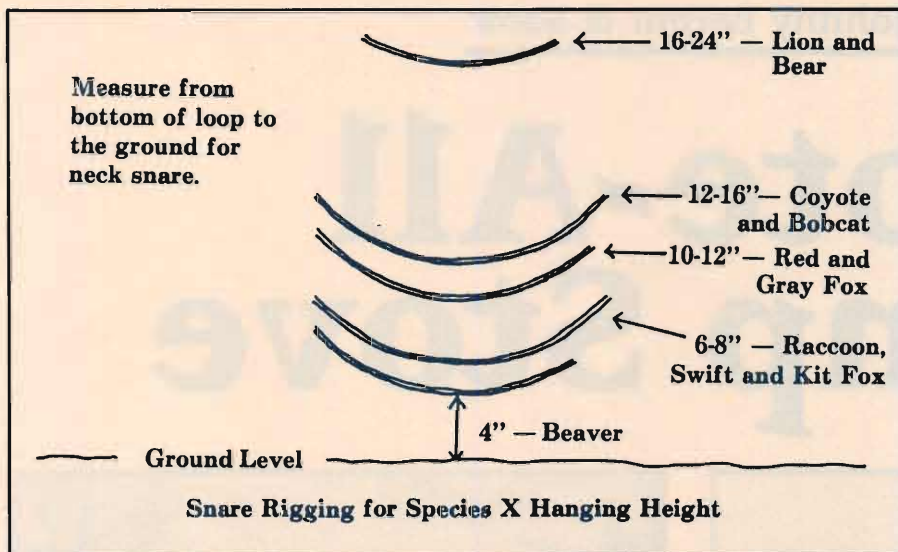
The snare not only must be in the proper location, it also needs to have the correct loop size and hanging height. Hanging height refers to the height of the bottom of the loop off the ground. Loop sizes vary with the species you intend to catch. The loop for fox is about eight inches while coyote and beaver require a 12- to 14-inch loop. Beaver and coyote have the same size loop, however the hanging height is different. Beaver snares are set four inches above the ground and coyote snares are set with 12 inches of space. A common misconception is how the snare loop is set in relation to the ground. Most people believe the loop is laid out parallel to the ground. In actuality, it is set perpendicular to the ground. The snare is placed this way whether you intend to make a neck or foot catch.

Snares are set where a trail is naturally narrowed. Often a trail will pass next to a tree, rock or fence. Such obstacles will help guide the animal through the snare. Other good places are fence crawl-unders where animals follow a trail that goes under a fence.

Most snare sets are of the blind type,







meaning they are usually set without the use of baits or lure. They are placed in a narrowed spot in the trail in an attempt to catch the animal as it makes its rounds. These rounds may be nightly in some raccoon areas or they could be up to two-week intervals in coyote areas.

To make a snare set you will need more than just a snare. You will need wire to attach the snare to a tree, fence post or stake. This wire should be 14½ gauge (like bailing wire) doubled. In some situations you may even want to increase to three strands. The wire also functions as a means of stabilizing and adjusting the snare. This is important to insure proper snare placement and a good catch.

Other equipment needed is minimum. I'd suggest a good pair of wire

cutting pliers and a hammer for driving the stakes. Stakes are either wood or iron rebar. Also handy to have are a few trapping books. While most trapping books deal with conventional traps, it is possible to pick up some useful tips that can be related to snares. An excellent and inexpensive book on raccoon trapping is Russ Carman's *Raccoon Trapping Methods*. This book doesn't deal with snares, but it does show sets made with conibear killer traps. At most of these sets a snare can be substituted for the killer trap. Tom Krause has a book called *Dynamite Snare and Snaring* that is good. *Snaring Coyotes* by Boddicker and Gregerson is a book that deals only with snares. It is concerned mainly with coyotes, but it has good general information and useful tips for snar-

ing other animals also.

**Snares For Defense** — Now you know that snares can be used to catch animals for fur and food. But how can they be used for your defense?

They can be set up in a perimeter to protect your camp from marauding animals. In a survival situation you could be confronted with roving dog packs or even dogs that are on your trail. Snares set in trails will often stop these dogs, but they won't kill them. Almost every dog caught in a snare will stop when the loop tightens. You see, dogs are leash and collar trained and will just stop and wait for their master. Coyotes will even do this, unless the trapper provides a solid object for the animal to get entangled with. This method should work with dogs also.

If you must dispatch a dog in a snare, you can use the quick means mentioned for furbearers. If you want to try to kill a dog with a snare you could try entanglement.

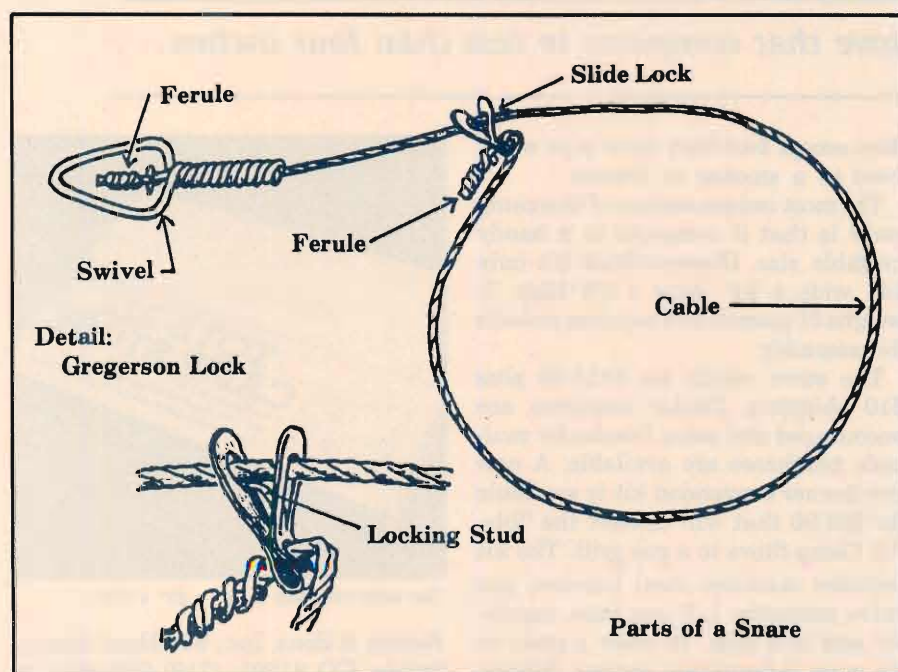
The animal that most often follows trails is man. If you are ever in a position where you need to protect yourself from your fellow man, snares can be useful. A snare that is placed with the bottom of the loop on or just off the ground will catch a human foot. Of course a man caught in a leg snare won't stay caught for very long. It is a simple matter to release a snare and get your foot out. Simple that is if no pressure is applied to the snare.

You may be thinking of a lifting pole set-up that works on animals or the method we've all seen in the movies. It's the one where the bad guy steps into the snare, trips the release and up he goes, head hanging off the ground. I would guess this could be done, but it would be hard to set up a heavy enough lift pole to get the job done.

A better method would be to rig the snare up to a pole weighted to lift a man's leg high enough off the ground with pressure on the loop. This should keep your catch in place.

Snares can also be set as trip wires to drop nets, logs or whatever. The snare with its positive hold makes certain a good pull is made when the wire is hooked to alarms, lights or rigged to pull the pin on anything.

Snares have many uses and will make a useful tool for you to have in your equipment store. Snares can keep you well fed, make you money on a trapline, and even come to your defense. ●





Johnny Berndt & Sons:

# Tote-All Camp Stove



The Tote-All Camp Stove requires no tools for assembly.



The stove will accept logs 18 inches long or can be fired with charcoal briquettes. A liquid propane conversion kit is available.

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*A heavy-duty camp stove that compacts to less than four inches. . .*

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## Staff Report

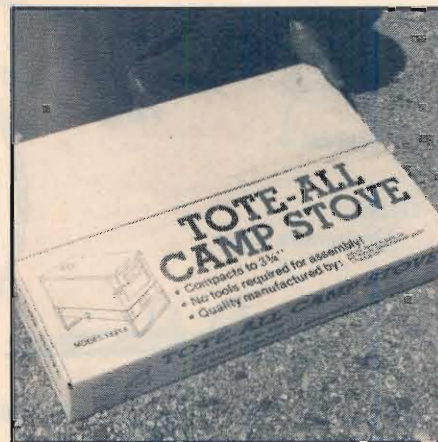
**T**HE Tote-All Camp Stove is a sturdy, well-built stove designed for the camper, hunter, fisherman and backyard barbecuer as well. It's made from rugged 24 gauge steel with an oxidized coating called Black Beauty for corrosion resistance. This finish will withstand temperatures of up to 500 degrees without degrading.

The Tote-All Camp Stove was designed to be a self-contained fire pit, able to use logs up to 18 inches long. It can also be used with charcoal briquettes for use as a barbecue. Another use is that of a smoker for smoking your favorite meat or fish. While not recommended for indoor use, the stove

does accept four-inch stove pipe when used as a smoker or heater.

The most unique feature of this camp stove is that it compacts to a handy portable size. Disassembled it's only 14" wide x 21" long x 3 3/4" high. It weighs 31 pounds and requires no tools for assembly.

The stove retails for \$115.95 plus \$10 shipping. Dealer inquiries are encouraged and price breaks for multiple purchases are available. A new gas burner conversion kit is available for \$61.90 that will convert the Tote-All Camp Stove to a gas grill. The kit includes stainless steel burners, gas valve assembly, L.P. gas hose, regulator and lava rock. To order a stove or for more information contact Johnny



The stove compacts to 14" x 21" x 3 3/4".

Berndt & Sons, Inc., 647 Hunt Street, Salida, CO 81201; (719) 539-2617. ●



# Professional Locksmithing Tools

## LOCKAID

Specifically designed to pick tumbler locks. Designed over thirty years ago to aid law enforcement agencies. Consists of tension wrench, three needles and Lockaid "Gun." Prices include a copy of the book "Lock Picking Simplified."

Lockaid \$69.95



## PIX MODEL 13

This deluxe yet compact kit features 11 of the most commonly used tools. Comes in a slim cowhide leather case for discreet undercover operatives. As a special bonus, a 5 piece set of **warded picks is included**. A 16 piece set total. Also included, a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." Receive all this at a Low price of:

Pix 13 \$42.95



## PIX-QUICK MODEL A

These high quality picks feature new lighter non-breakable plastic color coded handles. Picks are of .022 blue spring steel... hardened to perfection. Eight piece set comes with handy see-through case with two extra pockets and a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified."

Model A \$22.95



## PIX-QUICK MODEL B

Same color coded set as Model A. Only with deluxe 13 pieces. Price includes tension wrench and book.

Model B \$29.95

## PIX-EZ All-In-One Pick-Set

100% American Made! As convenient to carry and use as a pocket knife! Only 4 inches long, half inch square, weighs under five ounces, works fast and opens pin and water tumbler locks quickly, with very little effort. Six tempered spring steel picks, tension wrench.

\$34.95



## WKS PICKS

Made of the finest blue tempered spring steel this 5 piece padlock pick-set is a must in every locksmith's tool box. This set will pick open most every warded padlock made today.

\$9.95



Lockpicking Simplified	\$7.00
Complete Guide to Lockpicking	\$12.00
Improvised Lock Picks	\$9.95
Tubular Locks	\$8.95
Lockout and forced entry	\$8.95

Safe & Vault manipulation	\$9.95
How to Pick Pins & Wafers	\$9.95
Combination Locks	\$7.00
Keys by Impressioning	\$7.00
Key Casting Manual	\$8.95

**NEW ITEMS**



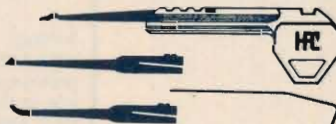
## ESP-13

This handy new pick set is the most popular set among professional locksmiths today. This kit consists of 12 different tools housed in a handsome black leather case designed for a shirt pocket. Included in the price, you receive a 5 piece **warded key set** and a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." 17 piece set total.

ESP-13 \$45.95



## KEY RING PICK SET



This unique design is ideal when low profile is required or to keep on your keyring for emergencies. Contains a tension wrench, three picks and the "Key Pick."

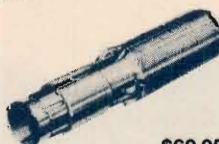
Key Ring Pick Set \$27.95



## DOUBLE SIDED DISK TUMBLER PICKS

Set of 4 picks designed to be used on the most popular double-sided disk tumbler, showcase, cam and padlocks.

\$27.95



\$69.95

## MINI PICK TUBULAR

The most effective tubular pick on the market, unlike the larger picks with long handles or screwdriver handles. The longer the tool, the more pressure needed which causes easy breakage. The advantage of the Mini Pick is it is so short, you only use your thumb and index finger. With a little practice this tool will open a tubular lock in less than a minute. A. Your Choice: (1) Center (2) Offset left (3) Offset right; B. "Segal" 8 pin tubular; C. 5-pin Tubular; D. 6-pin Tubular; E. 8-Pin Ace.

## SISAMEE DECODER

This tool was designed to decode the exact combination of a sesame padlock without damaging the lock. Detailed instruction included.



\$17.95

## SCHLAGE WAFER

The most fantastic tool you will ever use. This set consists of two base keys and pick. Complete instructions included.

\$27.95



## MD16

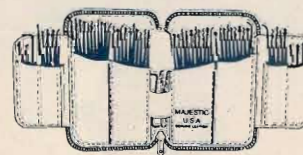
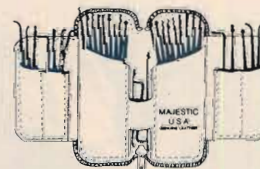
Shirt Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 16 Picks, Tension Wrenches and Broken Key Extractor.

\$59.95

## MD32

Hip Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 32 picks, Tension Wrenches, Broken Key Extractor.

\$69.95



## MD60

Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 60 picks, Tension Wrenches, Broken Key Extractor and Warded Master Keys.

\$89.95

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Orpheus Industries:

# Inertia-Fire

*The closest thing to true full-auto fire...*

## Staff Evaluation

**W**ATCHING a demonstration video tape of the new "Inertia-Fire" trigger activator from Orpheus Industries, we were amazed at the machine gun-like rapid fire that was achieved and decided to put this device to the test.

Available for \$39.95 postpaid from Orpheus Industries, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 1415, Montrose, CO 81402; (303) 249-0108; the "Tri-Burst" trigger activator from Orpheus, which provides rapid three-shot bursts from semiautomatic rifles can also be used for strings of full-automatic-like fire.

The Inertia-Fire Tri-Burst is available for most semiautomatic paramilitary rifles with the exception of most 9 millimeter and .22 caliber firearms which don't have enough necessary recoil to use the device effectively. We tried the Inertia-Fire device on an HK 91 .308 rifle, a Poly Technologies 7.62 x 39 caliber AK-47 and 5.56 caliber Colt AR-15 A2 HBAR Sporter.


The devices are simple to install and in most cases don't require any modification of the firearm. In the case of the Colt HBAR we used, it was necessary to use a 1/8-inch drift punch to knock out the roll pin that holds the trigger guard in place and remove the trigger guard before installing the trigger activator, but this was easily done without damaging the rifle, roll pin or trigger guard and these latter two items can be quickly re-installed whenever the shooter desires.

At the shooting area where rapid fire was permitted we put the Inertia-Fire devices to the test and were very pleased with the results, except for the HK 91 on which, we learned later, we had improperly installed the trigger activator. More about that in a moment.


We achieved rapid fire easily with the Colt and AK, emptying several 30-round magazines of ammo while



A 30-round magazine is rapidly emptied firing this Poly Technologies AK-47 with the Inertia-Fire trigger activator.



Although difficult to photograph due to the rapid and forceful ejection of the spent cases, the Inertia-Fire device worked perfectly on this Colt AR-15 A2 HBAR Sporter, providing full-auto-type fire over and over to the point where the barrel became very hot.



Due to the trigger activator being installed too far forward on the trigger guard, shooters were only able to achieve two- and three-shot bursts of fire with this HK 91.



using the Tri-Burst Inertia-Fire trigger activators, but this requires some practice.

Once the device is properly installed according to instructions provided with it, you hold the rifle at your hip with your left hand on the fore end or guard and the right index finger (or other finger) only placed on the trigger. You then push the rifle slightly with your left hand while keeping the trigger finger stationary. The weapon's recoil cycles the action repeatedly, providing rapid, machine gun-like fire.

It definitely takes some practice to achieve the inertia-fire effect, and we found we had little control over the direction of our fire, but you do get the feel of full-automatic-type fire.

We learned from Vincent Troncoso of Orpheus Industries that we had not installed the HK 91 Inertia-Fire device far enough back on the trigger guard. You have to cock the rifle and slide the mounting bracket back until the trigger is so far to the rear that it's just about to the point where the weapon will fire. This is where you leave the trigger activator to operate it for full-auto-type firing. We're told there's no need to modify the HK 91's heavy trigger pull with the Inertia-



Close-up views of the Inertia-Fire devices installed on the rifles.



Fire activator properly installed. We plan on trying this again when we get the time. As it was we were able to get two-shot and three-shot bursts of fire only with the HK 91 we used.

If you don't mind wasting your ammo, this is a whole lot of fun, absolutely fascinating, and definitely impressive. It's the closest thing we've ever seen or experienced to true full-automatic machine gun fire, although it's not the same as firing a real machine gun, which you would have much better control over. ●

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Instability, Terrorism:

# Unrest In Mexico

*If Mexico erupts in a Marxist-inspired revolution, what will be the U.S. response...?*



Federal law enforcement agencies do not have the manpower to stem the refugee tide from Mexico if a bloody revolution should occur.

By Carl H. Yaeger

ONE school of thought within the intelligence community compares the present state of Mexico to Iran on the eve of Khomeini's revolution. Like the monarchy of Iran, which was thought to be stable and unshakable so too, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) which has ruled Mexico without any upheavals for almost 65 years, is considered stable and entrenched.

The United States government, as well as the people of our country, have become complacent about the social, political, and especially the economic turmoil in Mexico. After all, Mexico

has "always been there" for fun and games across the border, and for tourism. Just as we overlooked the pressures building among the fundamentalist Shiites in Iran, so we are now neglecting the pressures building among the poverty-stricken masses of Mexico.

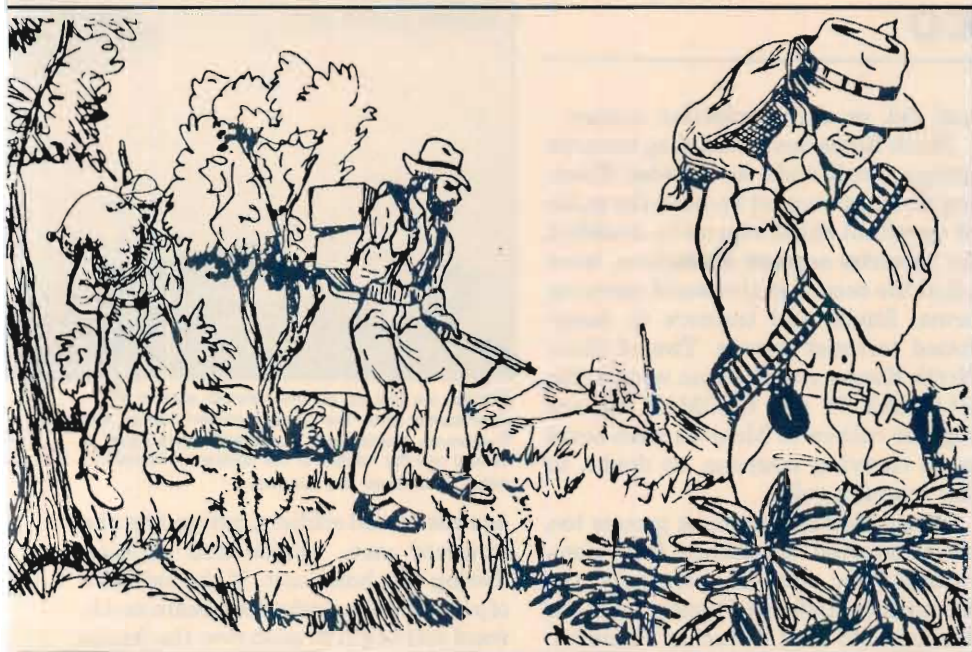
The Soviet Union is vitally interested in the political and economic turmoil in Mexico. Soviet interest goes back to the Mexican revolution of 1910 and the subsequent civil war which paralleled the Soviet revolution. There was a definite radical-left streak in the Mexican revolt, anti-capitalist in nature and directed, to some degree, against the big American corporations which dominated Mexico's economy.

The Soviet Union helped to create and nurture the Mexican Communist Party and, although it has never been very strong, it could be a powerful factor in organizing a Marxist uprising.

Mexico almost went over the brink of revolution in 1968. That was the year when hundreds of students and workers were shot down by the army and government-sponsored vigilantes in the Plaza of the Three Cultures in Mexico City. Terrorist and bandit gangs roamed at will throughout the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Guerrero. Corruption in high places was rampant. It was discovered that Mexico's City's police chief, an old crony of the president's, was building a \$17,000,000 mansion complete with indoor polo fields, several swimming pools and tennis courts... all on an annual salary of \$16,000 a year.

But more frightening than the riots or disclosures of corruption, was the discovery of a massive Soviet KGB plot to destabilize the country, plunge it into revolution, and declare a Marxist Mexico. The KGB, in full collusion with its Cuban counterpart, the DGI, recruited native Mexican dissidents and sent them to North Korea for sabotage and terrorist training. Just prior to the scheduled assault on Mexico, the returned terrorists had honeycombed Mexican society and were ready to strike. The plot was discovered by a fluke and sheer dumb luck, and the Mexican police forces — in a rare display of efficiency — rolled up the conspiracy and arrested dozens of Marxist guerrillas and terrorists. Many Soviet "diplomats," most of whom were KGB agents, were expelled from the country. The government of Mexico came within a whisker of severing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. Follow-up investigations uncovered further evidence that the Soviets had been building up a guerrilla-terrorist infrastructure which would exploit the terrible misery in Mexico and create a wave of terror when con-





The 23 September Communist League terrorist trainees are constantly on the move to avoid detection and capture.

ditions were ripe.

Just how desirable is Mexico from a Soviet point of view? How vulnerable? First of all, the Soviets have made no secret of their desire to have access to the 2,000-mile desert border between Mexico and the United States. The Russians already have "consulates" in the Mexican border cities of Ciudad Juarez, opposite El Paso, Nogales, Sonora, and Tijuana near San Diego.

These "consulates" are large and overstaffed and were not built to serve the non-existent Soviet tourists in Mexico. The tops of the consulate buildings bristle with antennas of every kind to ferret out secrets from America's electromagnetic emissions; radar frequencies, telemetry from missile tests, and radio-telephonic communications. One of their primary missions is to assist in slipping in spies, saboteurs, and terrorists into the U.S.

Another element of Soviet influence and operations in Mexico are the trade missions which the Russians are establishing along the U.S. border. So far, five have been set up, each one near an area critical to American national security. Like the consulates, these missions are nothing more than a cover for Soviet operations against the United States.

It is likely that the Soviet Union will not have to exert much effort to destabilize Mexico. Mexico is beginning to crumble from inside from her own internal dry rot. The Mexican peso has been devalued time and time

again until it may hit 5,000 to the dollar in the near future. The Mexican middle class could evaporate and the working class will be unable to feed itself. This is when street fighting is most likely to erupt plunging the country into anarchy. The rich will flee, taking most of their wealth with them and join their Swiss bank accounts.

Only 20 percent of the Mexican economy is in private hands. Banks in Mexico city are surrounded by security guards encased in protective gear and are armed to the teeth in broad daylight. Gangs rove even the classiest sections of Mexico City armed with straight razors and knives stopping whole columns of passing cars and demand money, jewelry, and anything else of value.

The Presidential Palace is now guarded by units of the Mexican Navy because the special presidential guard is no longer trusted by the government. The enormous profits earned from oil in the 1970s and early 1980s have been largely squandered, embezzled, or diverted by high officials to Swiss banks for private use.

The largest number of landless peasants in the Western Hemisphere are in Mexico. Millions are leaving the poverty-stricken countryside and fleeing to the big cities — particularly Mexico City creating horrendous pressures on municipal and social services. The shantytowns are growing at an alarming rate and are cesspools of despair and social unrest.

**Terrorist Activities** — There is startling new evidence that the strength of rural guerrillas and urban terrorists in Mexico is growing at an alarming rate, and that these groups are being supported by Cuba, the Soviet Union, and North Korea. One of the largest — and most potent — of these groups is the 23 September Communist League. A defector from this group told American intelligence agents that Soviet KGB and Cuban DGI agents are training members of League in secret camps throughout Mexico. One of these camps is disguised as an old mining town and is within sight of the U.S. border.

Guatemalan terrorist groups, pursued by aggressive government counter-measures, have crossed the border and have turned the southern Mexican states of Chiapas and Oaxaca into large-scale guerrilla-terrorist training camps. The ranks of the Guatemalan terrorists are being swelled by terrorist recruits from northern Mexico who go south for advanced training by experienced Central American guerrilla fighters who have learned their deadly trade in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

The 23 September Communist League was founded in 1974 after its predecessor group, the Revolutionary Action Movement (MAR) was destroyed by government counter-terrorist actions after the attempted 1968 terrorist assault.

The League began its activities on 23 September 1974 when it had its first clash with government troops. After that, the League embarked upon a series of spectacular and violent bank robberies throughout Mexico.

Another favored tactic of the 23 September League is the cold-blooded assassination of police officers and public officials. The League has initiated a bombing and arson campaign all over the country and in one incident, has torched and gutted a six-story department store in Guadalajara.

From a nationwide strength of about 2,000 10 years ago, the 23 September Communist League has grown dramatically as Mexico's economic and political problems worsen. An accurate estimate is hard to determine because the league members are scattered, not only in Chiapas and Oaxaca, but also among the northern Mexican states of Chihuahua, Sonora, Nuevo Leon, Baja California, and Tamaulipas. League cells have been reported active in the sprawling border cities of Ciudad Juarez opposite El Paso, Texas, and Ojinaga, opposite Presidio, Texas, as well as Nogales, Sonora which is across



# Unrest in Mexico

(photo by Scott Stoddard)

the fence from Nogales, Arizona. Other 23 September Communist League cells have been reported in the cities of Chihuahua and Delicias. Secret League training camps have been rumored to be along the Sierra Madre mountain ranges of Sonora and Chihuahua.

Defectors from the 23 September organization have reported that the training camps have been disguised to look like operating farms from the air. The local peasants have, in many cases, been recruited by the League to alert them if the Mexican police or army units are in the area. Much of the terrain is mountainous desert but there is also agriculture. Cotton, wheat, and cattle products are raised on the League's "working farms" in order to blend in with the surrounding areas.

The camps and the trainees are kept on the move in order to escape detection. Units of trainees of 10 to 12 move to the southern camps after "basic." The camps themselves move every two to three months, but the basic camps usually remain in the northern desert states.

An elaborate support system keeps the league supplied with arms and some of them are surprisingly sophisticated. Communist bloc assault rifles, American M16s and M-60 machine guns left behind in Vietnam, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, have found their way into the league's arsenal from Cuba by way of Honduras. Ships carrying clandestine arms call regularly on Mexican west coast ports, particularly Baja California's La Paz and Ensenada, as well as Culiacan. The arms are transhipped to league terrorist cells by trucks carrying farm machinery or agricultural produce. Smaller weapons are regularly shipped via bus or private vehicles as package inspection by the authorities is virtually non-existent.

The league usually pays for the weapons from the proceeds of kidnapping, murder-for-money, or bank robberies. Arms exchange deals with Mexico's notorious drug-traffickers are also arranged since there is a symbiotic relationship between the Mexican drug lords and the terrorist league leaders.

Financial support also comes from an unexpected source: the governors of some of the northern states. It is not known if these payments are the result of extortion or indicators of politi-

cal aid, or even protection money.

North Korea has been aiding terrorist groups, world-wide, for decades. Floating terrorist support bases in the guise of merchant ships, especially modified for terrorist support operations, have plied the oceans of the world carrying arms, funds, and trainers to designated terrorist groups. Two of these North Korean covert action vessels, the CLOMAX 71 and CLOMAX 72, are regular callers at Mexico's west coast ports carrying weapons, no doubt, to the league's cells.

Other Mexican terrorist groups too, have received assistance from communist bloc nations, primarily the Committee Defensa Popular, and the Movimiento de Liberacion Nacional. These two groups pose a significant threat to the United States as they are linked to domestic Hispanic extremist groups such as the Chicano Liberation Front and the Mexican-American Crusade for Justice. These groups demand the return of the seven American states which were created out of the territory wrested from Mexico in 1848, and the creation of an expanded, Marxist Mexico.

The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service has issued repeated warnings that international terrorists have been slipping into the U.S. with impunity through our soft underbelly — the Mexican-U.S. border. Add to that the millions of others who slip in illegally, and the concept of a "border" is a fiction.

Former Arizona governor Bruce Babbitt stated: "The southwest is being Hispanicized. In the Mexican-American War of 1848, we annexed the southwest. Now the Mexicans are taking it back. The border becomes more and more a juridical figment; it is dissolving in real terms."

The Hispanic majority in the southwestern states of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and many parts of California, Utah and Colorado, include the recent illegals from Mexico. The resulting poverty and social strains have created a new militancy among the Hispanic population which has found common cause with the dissident groups in Mexico.

If Mexico erupts in a Marxist-inspired revolution with the inevitable civil war following, just how many divisions will be needed to defend our border?

The defense may not be directed



Canoes are tied up on the Mexican side of the Usumacinta River, the border between Mexico and Guatemala. Guatemalan guerrilla-terrorists have formed training camps in the southern Mexican states of Chiapas and Oaxaca.

against armed soldiers, but against the innocent men, women and children fleeing the holocaust. If the millions of panic-stricken refugees stream northward and begin to push over the fences and wade across the Rio Grande, would American soldiers shoot them?

It has been known by American military analysts that the Soviet Union has long coveted the magnificent Magdalena Bay in Baja California. Naval strategists have long considered it to be the most natural harbor facing the Pacific. The strategic value of this harbor is enormous — especially to Soviet strategists. It has an 800-mile coastline from which submarine-launched missiles are only seconds away from the major cities and strategic military bases in America's southwest. Is an American president prepared to let the Soviet Navy develop this base at the invitation of a Marxist Mexico?

A friend of mine has worked in Mexico as a counter-intelligence agent for years. He is assigned to a congressionally funded intelligence task force and controls a network of agents who keep their thumbs on the political, economic, and social pulses of Mexico. This old Mexico hand made a dire prediction: "I fully expect that my people and I will have to be evacuated off the roof top of the American embassy in Mexico City when that country collapses into chaos — just as our people were in Saigon in 1975. If conditions in Mexico don't improve soon — and dramatically — you can count on it."

And if the conditions in Mexico don't improve, the scavengers of chaos — terrorist organizations such as the 23 September Communist League and their sponsors, the Soviet Union and Cuba, will reap enormous benefits and create the revolutionary conditions which could change the political complexion of the American southwest. ●



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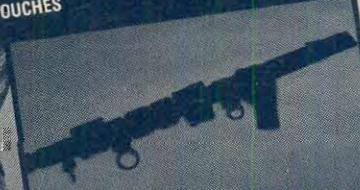
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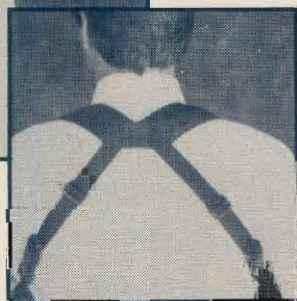




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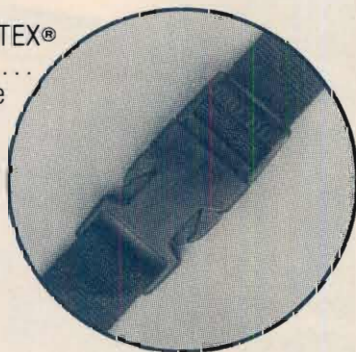


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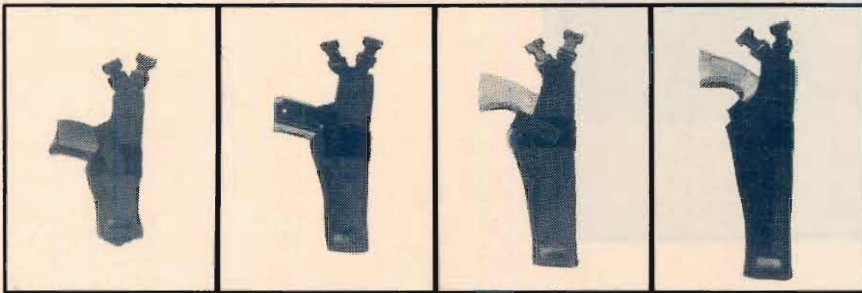
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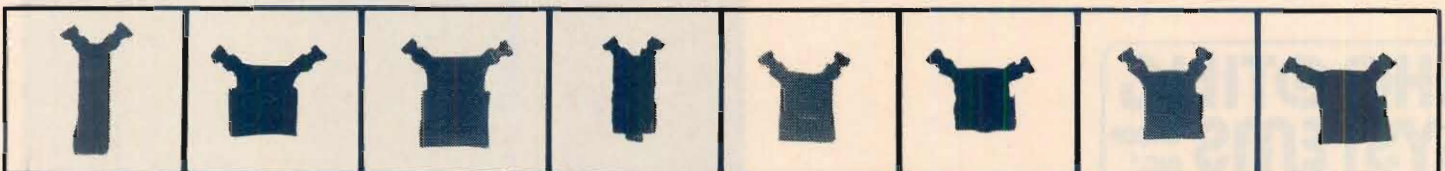
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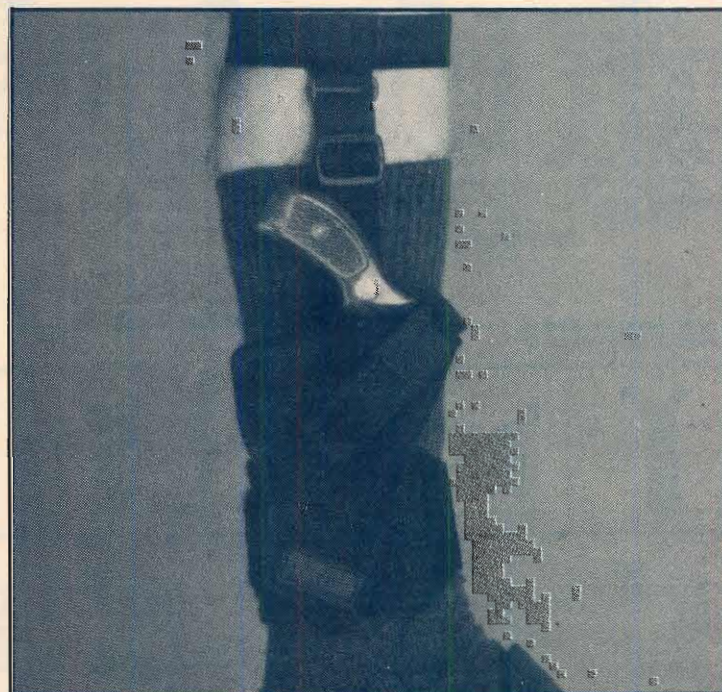
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## BOOKS/VIDEOS

(Continued from page 11)

leading the average individual to believe that they are not personally at risk. This is, in part, due to the inadequate and misconceived response on behalf of Public Health Officials as well as an incessant preponderance of biased, overly optimistic information being disseminated by the media and AIDS organizations." Learn what the AIDS "experts" aren't telling you about this modern plague that may never have a medical cure.

**Emergency Heat, Light and Cooking** (section 2); **Personal Emergencies & Fires** (section 3), videos by the Center for Emergency Preparedness. Available through NITRO-PAK Survival Foods & Supplies, 13243 E. Rosecrans Ave., Dept. ASG, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670; (213) 802-0099. VHS, \$20.95 each plus \$2.50 shipping. These two videos continue the series that the Center for Emergency Preparedness is producing. *Emergency Heat, Light and Cooking* covers topics such as: storing fuels (kerosene, propane, charcoal, coal, wood, etc.); camping and home portable heaters; sources of emergency light (flashlights, lanterns, lightsticks); and cooking alternatives (charcoal, dutch oven, bar-b-que, camping stoves). Cautions are stressed as to what fuels produce carbon dioxide or the deadly carbon monoxide. *Personal Emergencies* is narrated by a fireman who goes through the house explaining the dangers and hazards that can be prevented. Child proofing the home against poisons, scalding water, electrocution, and fire is stressed.

**Spycraft: Inside Secrets of Espionage and Surveillance**, produced by CEP Inc., P.O. Box 865, Dept. ASG, Boulder, CO 80306; (303) 443-2294. VHS or Beta, 50 minutes. \$59.95 plus \$3 shipping and handling.

*Spycraft* is a hands-on course on how to identify and understand how phone taps and other sophisticated electronic gear operates. Starlight scopes, parabolic microphones, infrared detectors, electronic bugs and video cameras are some of the equipment demonstrated. Learn how a tailing team operates and what makes a clandestine surveillance operation successful. The video was written and co-directed by a man who spent 20 years running spies for a well-known federal intelligence agency. ●

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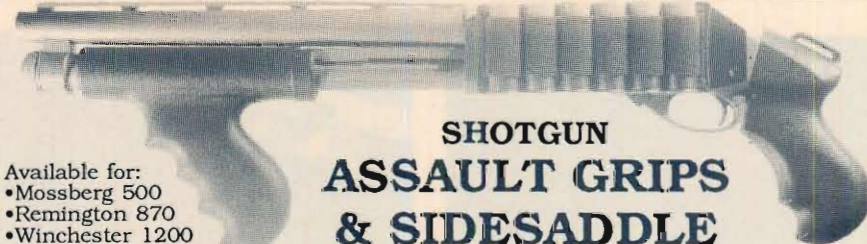
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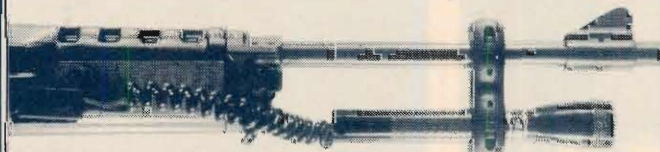
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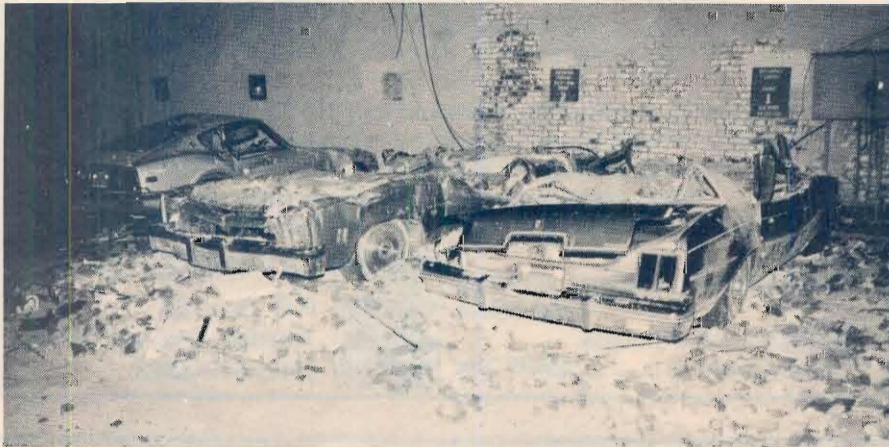


Emergencies:

# Survival Lessons

*San Francisco earthquake, Hurricane Hugo are harsh examples of the need for preparedness. . .*

By Jim Benson



Some of the devastation wrought by the northern California earthquake (photos by Mark R. Spansell).



ANYONE who has followed the reports coming from the areas hit by Hurricane Hugo and the northern California earthquake in recent months is aware of the problems faced by the victims of these disasters:

The shock and suffering of people whose loved ones and friends were killed; injured people needing medical attention; people without shelter, food, water, electricity, transportation; people suddenly left on their own, without the governmental services they had come to rely on, some of them faced with angry, hostile mobs, or criminals and having to rely on their own means for self protection.

At this writing the San Francisco area earthquake story is still unfolding. There were a few reports of muggings and looting following the devastation of the quake, but for the most part, governmental services appear to have been quickly restored, although on a limited basis in some respects.

Hurricane Hugo is another story. In the Virgin Islands and South Carolina there were reports of violence and disorder in the aftermath of the powerful tropical storm. Overtaxed police agencies were stretched to their manpower limits and beyond and the military and out-of-state law enforcement agencies were called in to lend a hand.

In both disasters, thousands were left homeless with property destroyed, hundreds were killed or injured, and food, water, shelter and the amenities of modern life were in short supply for a period of time.

This article is intended as a reminder for those engaged in survival preparations to give consideration to all possible needs, and as a primer for those just beginning to make these preparations.

Those who made survival preparations tended to fare better than those who did not, whether it was the Virgin Island vacationer or business person protecting their property and loved ones with firearms or the earthquake victim who stocked up on food and water, emergency power sources such as gasoline generators and fire wood. Next month we'll be running an article with interviews of California earthquake victims in which they will describe what happened to them and how they have coped with the problems they were confronted with.

I have some observations and suggestions on disaster preparedness which I'll be making in a moment, but first let me remind readers interested in survival preparation that no amount





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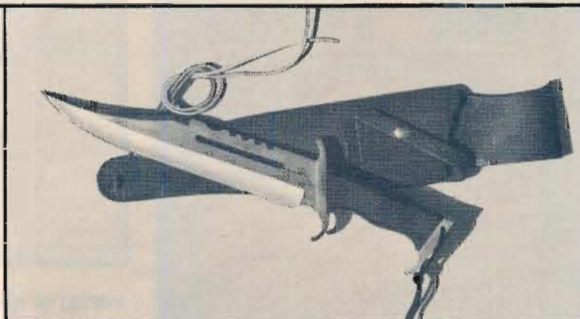
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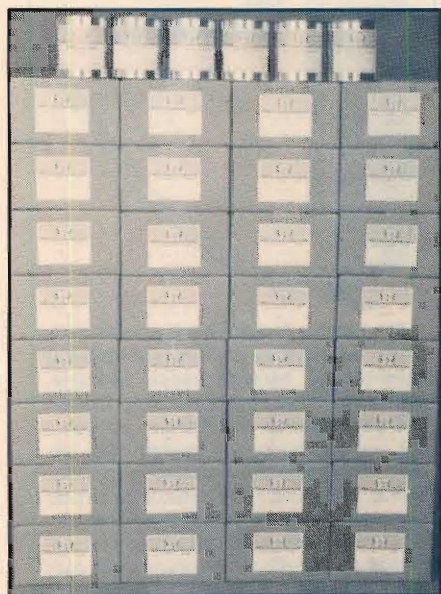
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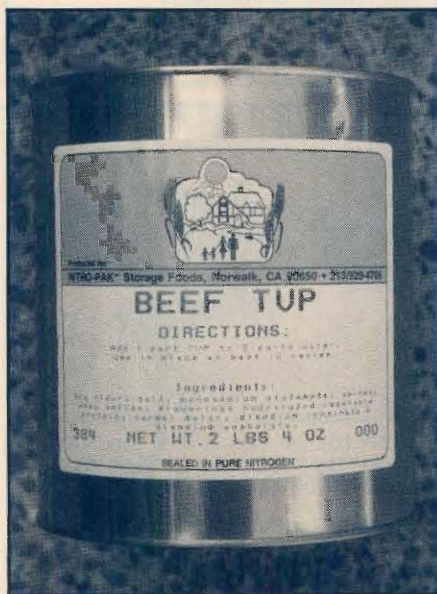
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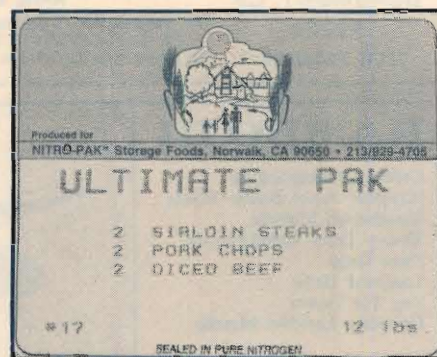


## Staff Report

**A** year supply unit is one of the best insurance policies you can buy. Recent events such as hurricane



Hugo and the San Francisco earthquake provide vivid examples of how people can become cut off from our modern distribution system. The looting that took place on St. Croix after the hurricane was not primarily a



racial or class problem. It was because the people were not prepared with emergency supplies of food, water and clothing — not even for two weeks.

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The unit provides 3,000 calories and 100 grams of protein per day for an adult for one full year. The American Red Cross recommends at least 2,000 calories and 80 grams of protein per day. In times of disaster where the physical labor of rebuilding may require more food intake, the Ultimate Pak guarantees those extra calories.

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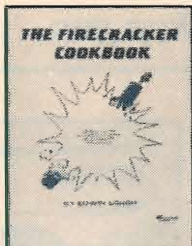
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*Four-shot, semiautomatic derringer backup gun...*



One shooter described firing the COP four-shot .357 Magnum derringer as "like an explosion in your hand." There is considerable muzzle blast and recoil. Alternative .38 Special ammunition is a good idea for those desiring less punishment.

## Staff Evaluation

**W**E came across the unusual COP derringer-type pistol recently and couldn't resist the opportunity to try it out.

This is a used gun and though there may be some around on the second-hand market, the manufacturer, COP Inc., of Torrance, California, is out of

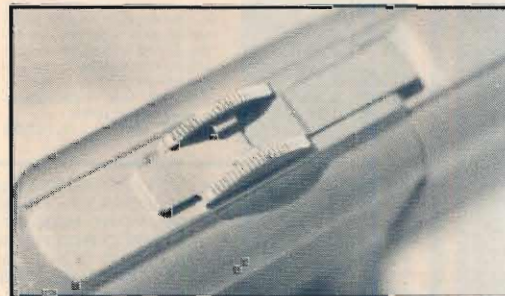
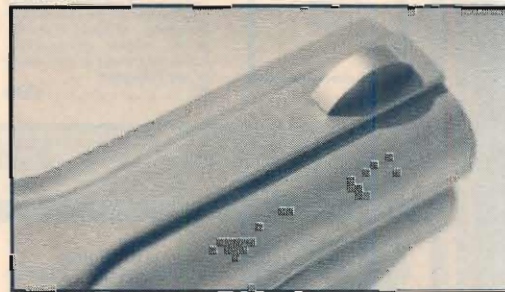
business, so there won't be any more made.

One owner of this little blaster described firing it as "like an explosion in your hand," and after shooting it ourselves we concluded that was a pretty fair description.

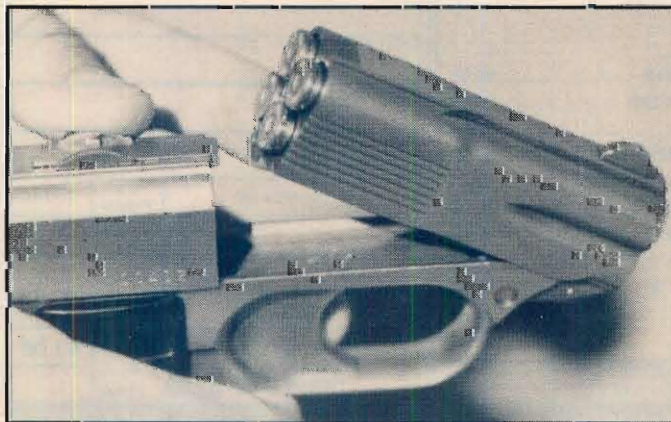
The COP fires .357 Magnum ammunition or .38 Specials, take your pick. We tried it only with .357 commercial stuff and found it packs quite a wallop as far as recoil is concerned. There's



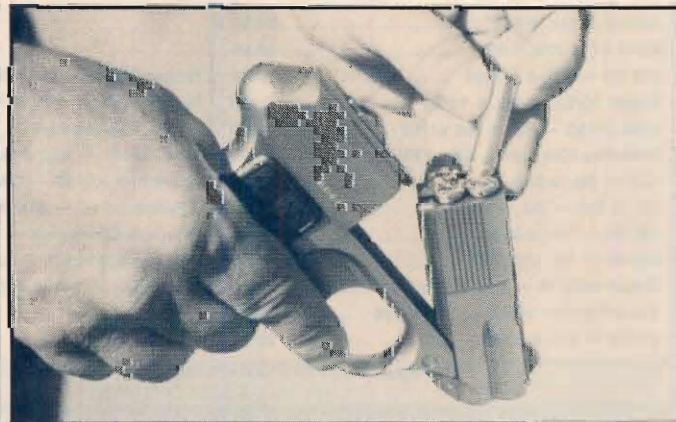
Well made and compact, the COP is a fistful of firepower.



Fixed sights provide limited aiming ability for this short-range handgun.



The COP breaks open for loading and unloading by sliding the rear sight to the rear.





considerable muzzle blast as well with the .357 rounds, but the COP will fire all four shots, utilizing a rotating hammer, as fast as you can pull the trigger, double action-style. It's a long trigger pull, with about ½-inch of travel, breaking at about 12 pounds, but smooth.

With its little barrel, about 1 7/8 inches, accuracy obviously is not great, but the gun is meant for close encounters and it seems accurate enough for a backup gun. Weight empty is 27.5 ozs. Overall length is just 5½ inches and height is only 4 inches. The guns is stainless steel with a matte finish and grip panels are brown checkered plastic.

and unloading.

If you fire this gun very much your hand starts to hurt from the bone-jarring recoil with .357 rounds. But it's not meant for prolonged shooting anyway.

If you're looking for a power-packed little backup or hideaway handgun and you come across the COP, you ought to take a good look at it. It's solidly constructed of quality materials and certainly gives you a fistful of firepower. ●

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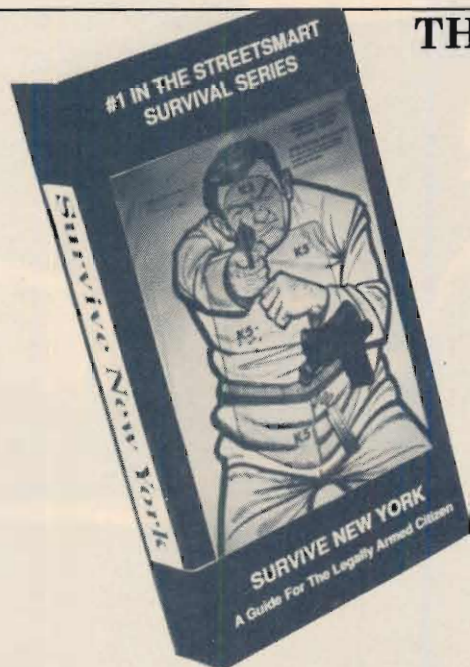
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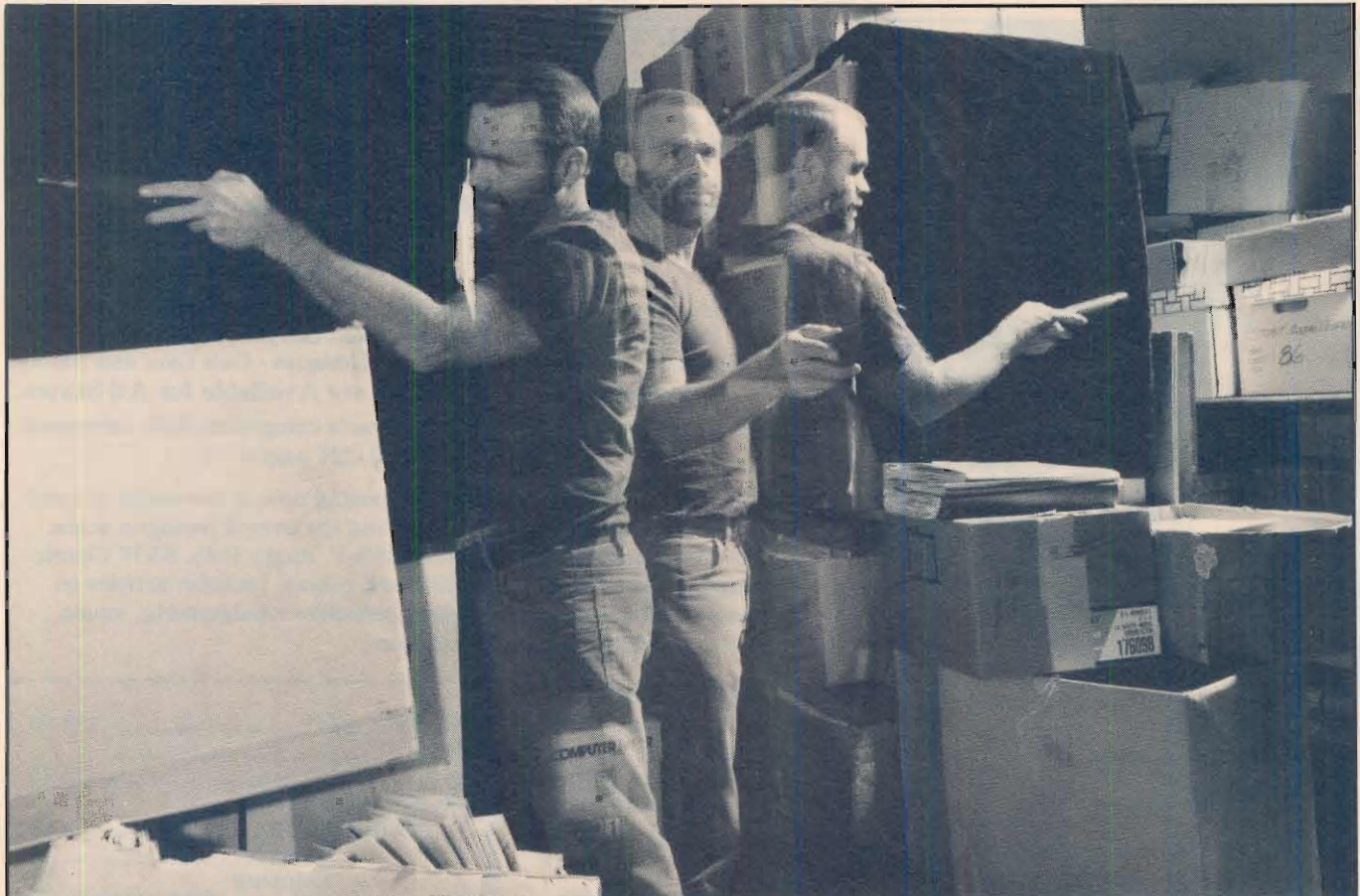
**A** new infrared detection system has recently come on the market that has broad applications in law enforcement, perimeter security, special weapons and tactics teams, search and rescue operations, and even personal security.

The Lifescan FLIR-6 (FLIR meaning

forward-looking infrared), contains a highly sensitive IR sensor that is capable of detecting warm bodies in total darkness. Police officers will find that the Lifescan can aid considerably in building searches by saving time and reducing exposure to potentially dangerous suspects. No longer is it necessary to look around a corner to see if anyone is there. An officer can scan a room from an outer hallway and only



The Lifescan measures 8.5 inches long and comes with a holster made by Tex Shoemaker & Sons.



The Lifescan FLIR-6 is used to detect intruders. The unit silently vibrates and an LED glows yellow when a temperature change is detected.



expose his arm to the potential threat. Without having to broadcast his presence with a blaring flashlight, stealth tactics are more feasible.

The Lifescan unit actually detects temperature differences. It has a combination on-off/sensitivity switch with four settings (A through D). When Lifescan detects a temperature difference it vibrates and a normally green LED light glows yellow. The actual use and operation of the Lifescan unit takes practice and a knowledge of how the unit works will help the user eliminate false readings.

Certain environments are actually more favorable for IR scanning. Night use is a good example. At night most objects are all at about the same temperature. This gives a good background for detecting a warm human body. Inside buildings such as warehouses, etc., the background objects are again pretty close in temperature. Warmer objects like machinery, heaters or vents could give a false alarm however. Daytime use during sunny conditions is not recommended. Temperature differences in light and shade will cause too many false alarms.

Rescue work is where the Lifescan may prove invaluable. After an earthquake such as the recent San Francisco quake, Lifescan units can be brought into devastated areas to search for trapped and missing people covered with rubble. With the danger of gasoline fumes and natural gas leaks possibly igniting, the Lifescan could prove safer to use than a flashlight.

Lifescan FLIR-6 retails for \$399 and includes a black leather holster and instruction manual. To order the Lifescan or to receive the name of a distributor or dealer nearest you contact: Dynaray Marketing, 50 West Hillcrest Drive, Suite 224, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 or call (800) 879-8797. ●

#### Technical Specifications

Range .....	0 to 75 feet
Sensitivity .....	Manually adjustable
Size .....	8.5 inches long x 1.75 inches diameter
Weight .....	1.1 pounds with batteries
Power .....	Four alkaline AA batteries with 60 hours cycled operation
Case .....	Black anodized high quality aluminum
Detection Indicators .....	LED Signal and internal vibration
Operating Temperatures .....	-25 degrees C to +85 degrees C (-13 degrees F to +185 degrees F)
Detector .....	Passive infrared (IR) using an 8-14 micron filter
Lens .....	Fresnel type with 0.75 inch focal plane length
Aperture .....	Fixed step-down

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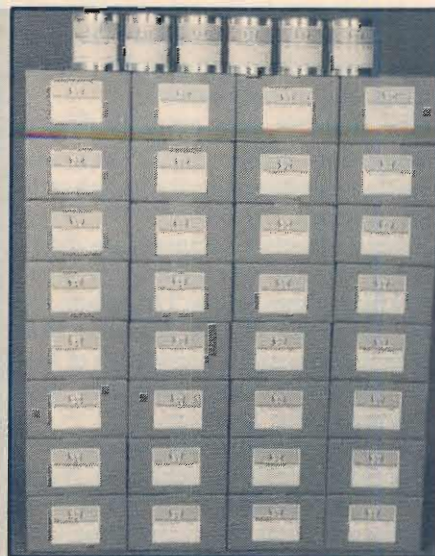
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The "ULTIMATE-PAK" year's food supply from NITRO-PAK Storage Foods And Supplies, Dept. ASG, 13243 E. Rosecrans Ave., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670; (213) 802-0099. Possibly the most extensive year's supply of food on the market today, this unit will provide 3,000 calories and 100 grams of protein for one person for one year. Packed in 32 easy-to-store cartons (stores in a space 55" high x 63" wide x 19" deep) containing 190 #10 cans

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**F**ill out the accompanying coupon, and include payment with subscription orders or current subscription extensions. All ASG 1990 Giveaway No. 1 entries should be printed or typewritten on the official coupon, or a reasonable facsimile from this magazine. A facsimile entry is acceptable and valid, as long as it contains information required with the subscription or extension order/entry form. The ASG Giveaway is open to any resident of the United States. Federal law requires that only U.S. citizens are eligible to receive a firearm prize. The prize winner must not be legally restricted from receiving or possessing a firearm. This contest offer is void where prohibited by law. Employees of McMullen Publishing and its subsidiaries or subordinate agencies, agents and members of their immediate families, are not eligible to enter the contest. There is a **LIMIT OF ONE ENTRY PER PERSON** for this contest. Duplicate and/or multiple-copy entries, when detected, will be disqualified and discarded. The prize winner will be selected in a random drawing of the coupons submitted for this contest. The drawing will be conducted at 2 p.m. April 27, 1990. Entries received after April 26, 1990 at 4 p.m. will be invalidated and discarded, though subscription orders will be honored by McMullen Publishing. The prize winner will be notified by telephone and/or mail within one week of the drawing. The firearm prize winner will be required to arrange with a local federally licensed firearms dealer to accept delivery of the prize. The winner will be required by the firearms dealer accepting the prize to fill out all necessary federal, state and/or local firearm purchase and/or transfer forms. To receive this prize, the winner must meet **ALL** federal, state and/or local requirements for firearms ownership. The winner must be 18 years of age or older. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

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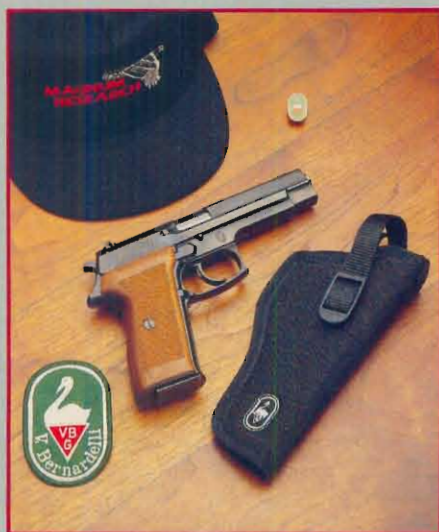
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The Bernardelli PO 18 17-shot 9 mm Parabellum Pistol from Magnum Research, Inc., Dept. ASG, 7110 University Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55432; (612) 574-1868. The handsome new Italian made and redesigned V. Bernardelli PO 18 9 mm pistol has all the features that American shooters and police officers demand: today's best 9 mm pistol features combined with 40 years

of experience and state-of-the-art manufacturing. This exciting handgun has all-forged steel frame construction, 16-round magazine capacity, external slide blocking safety, firing pin block safety, trigger disconnect safety, double action, reversible magazine release button, screw-adjustable sights with 3-dot system, squared off trigger guard. Retail value: \$540.

Prize No. 2 includes the PO 18 Pistol and accessories shown here.

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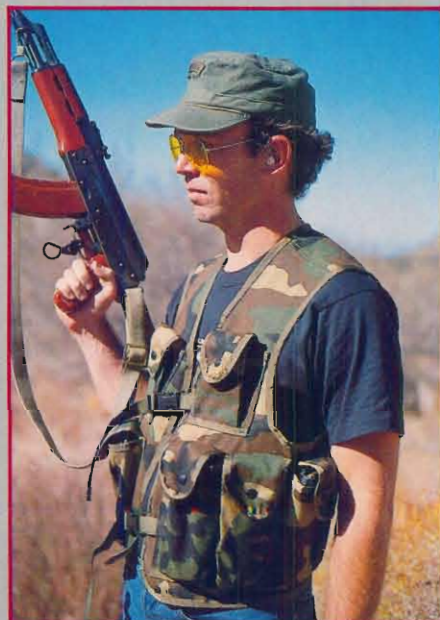


SOG Tech bowie knife from SOG Specialty Knives, Inc., Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 1024, Edmonds, WA 98020; (206) 771-6230. Designed with the utmost utilization of modern technology, the SOG Tech is an innovative cutting machine equal to any challenge and any environment. The 7¼" long, .250" wide carbon steel blade has an RC 57-58 hardness and is scientifically heat treated with a hollow grind. Brass guard allows greatest degree of downward pressure during use. Ergonomically influenced Kraton handle completely encapsulates the full tang. The high quality leather sheath is as advanced as the knife. Overall length is 12¼". Weight is 13.93 ozs. Comes with the sheath. Value: \$120.



A beautiful, elegant selection of unique knives made to look like high quality writing instruments from B&D Trading Co., Inc., Dept. ASG, 3935 Fair Hill Road, Fair Oaks, CA 95628; (916) 965-0555. Shown here are the Outdoorsman (4½" closed, 7⅝" open, 4 ozs., \$35.95), Grande Gold Heritage (4⅞" closed, 7⅞" open, 1.5 ozs., \$49.95), Lite Formal (3⅝" closed, 6⅞" open, 1 oz., \$39.95), Ultra Lite Flamboyant Red (3⅝" closed, 5¼" open, \$31.95), Junior Classic Silver (2⅜" closed, 3¼" open, \$23.95). Value: \$182.

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Combat Survival Vest from FMCO, Dept. ASG, 1525 Moon Terrace, Medford, OR 97504; (503) 773-9644. Here's a load bearing vest that can be thrown on in a hurry and has six large capacity pockets for packing up to 12 30-round .223 or 7.62 X 39 mm magazines or similar size magazines. Two chest pockets will hold two fragmentation grenades or other gear. Military specification DuPont Cordura nylon in a woodland camo pattern (also available in black), Fastex buckles front and rear make for easy, quick adjustment for large variety of sizes. Value: \$50. ●



Las Vegas:



Fuel and explosives go up in flames when ignited by machine gun fire at the SOF Firepower Demonstration.

*ASG participates in the  
10th Annual SOF  
Convention/Exposition . . .*

# Soldier of Fortune Convention

## Staff Report

**I**T'S hard to believe that ten years have come and gone," said *Soldier of Fortune* magazine Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown in his welcoming remarks to *SOF*'s 10th anniversary conventioners in Las Vegas.

"It seems like only yesterday we were in Columbia, Missouri, beginning our very first convention. We've changed since then, learned a lot, made our share of mistakes and grown into one of the best events anywhere. The fact that thousands of conventioners, shooters and exhibitors travel in from all over the world each year

to attend proves it." And so it does. There were approximately 10,000 visitors attending the seminars, shooting matches, firepower demonstration, exposition and other events held over three days last September.

*American Survival Guide* and its sister publication at McMullen Publishing, *Knives Illustrated*, participated in the exposition for the first time, and we were very pleased with the results. We met many long-time ASG readers and introduced the magazines to many other people, and we plan on being back next year. There were more than

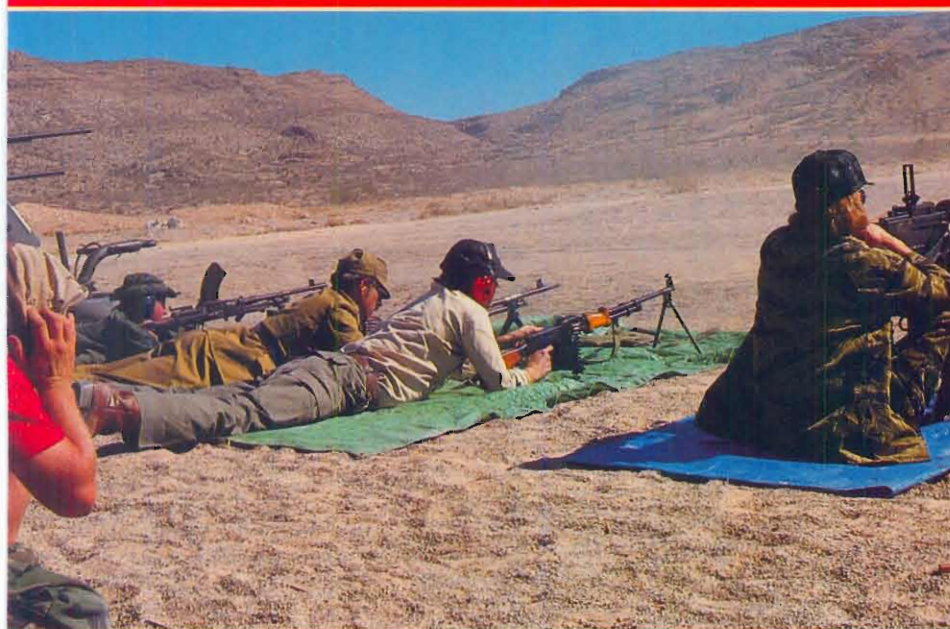
150 exhibitors featuring their wares at the exposition held at the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas.

Despite the continued success and popularity of the convention/exposition, there were some formerly regular exhibitors who did not attend the event this time due to their businesses being severely affected by the ban on importation of foreign semiautomatic military firearms. In his comments to the conventioners, Brown wrote: "For the past eight months American gun owners have been engaged in the fight of their lives.





Old water-cooled machine guns are caught in action along with some more modern .30 caliber machine guns.



Select-fire assault rifles are fired along side an older Browning machine gun at the firepower demonstration.



"Using the crazed rampage of a madman in California and the war on drugs as pretexts, gun control advocates have launched the most sweeping attack on the right to keep and bear arms in American history. The assault, orchestrated by the hysterically anti-gun national media, has been unprecedented in its lies, invective, defamation of gun owners and utter disregard of fundamental standards of journalistic accuracy and balance.

"The NRA estimates that for a period of several weeks last spring the anti-gun movement received the equivalent of \$10 million a year in free, anti-gun publicity from newspapers, magazines, and TV. Yet when the NRA attempted to buy ads to present our side of the story, publications like *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek* and *Time* refused to carry them.

"This sustained assault has given gun control advocates two important victories. In June, the state of California passed legislation banning sales of most semiautomatic rifles and requiring current owners to register their firearms. Worse, in July the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms — almost certainly on orders of the White House — recommended that its earlier, temporary ban on the import of some 48 different types of semiautomatic rifles be made permanent. (The BATF's "study" was a contemptibly dishonest document that did violence to both the law and the truth, and left no doubt as to the extremes of deceit gun control advocates were prepared to go in order to prevail). More than half a dozen bills have been introduced in Congress to impose the same sort of restrictions throughout the country and to bring domestically produced firearms under them.

"Make no mistake, the Great Gun Grab of 1989 is not about so-called "assault rifles." Most of the bills introduced in the name of controlling "assault rifles" in fact ban or severely restrict practically all semiautomatic firearms... There can no longer be the slightest doubt the ultimate goal of gun control advocates is the total disarmament of the American people, the Second Amendment be damned. The sanctimonious liars in organizations like Handgun Control Inc. are so confident of victory that they hardly

(Continued on page 62)

Mike Dillon of Dillon Precision Products in Scottsdale, Arizona, held everyone's attention at the SOF Firepower Demonstration when he cut loose with his massive Quad-50 (four .50 caliber machine guns) setup.



Machine Guns, Counter-Terrorist Training:

# The Bullet Stop

*More than just a gun store. . .*



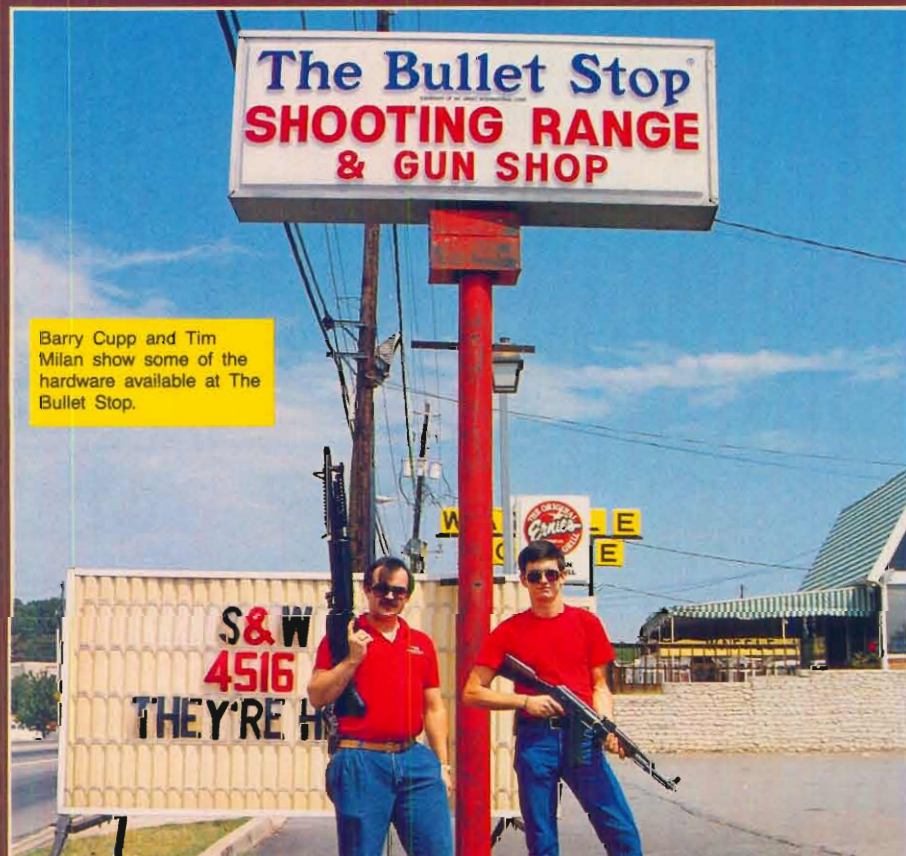
One of the first things you see when you enter The Bullet Stop is the machine gun rental wall. You can find just about any full-auto weapon to rent and fire at their indoor shooting range.

**By Dan Leadbetter**

**J**UST 17 miles north of the Atlanta, Georgia, airport lies a sleepy little town called Marietta. Like any other city, Marietta plays host to shopping malls, civic centers and movie theaters. In fact, things are pretty quiet around Marietta during the week. . . until 10 a.m., that is!

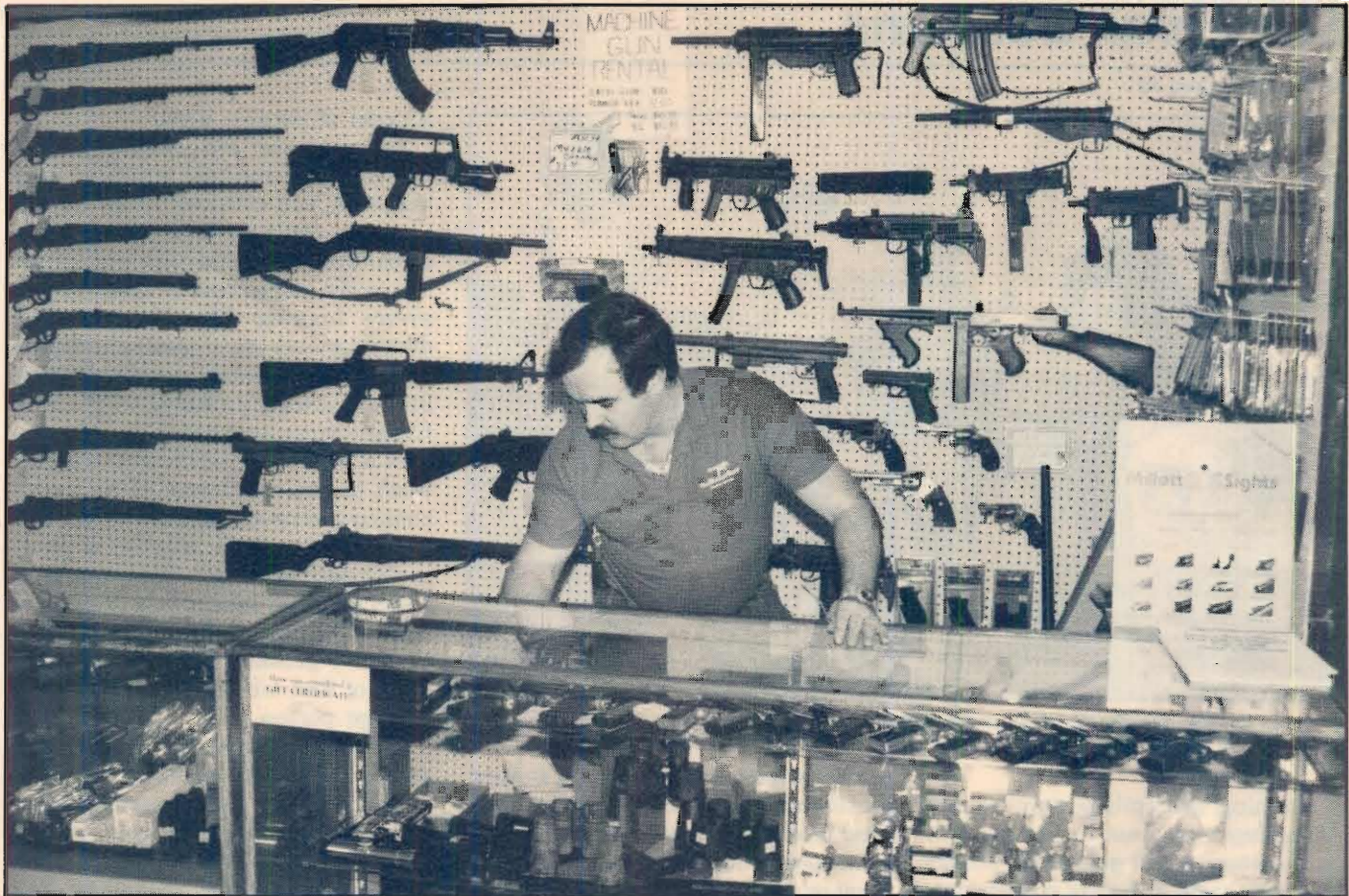
You see, 10 a.m. is when The Bullet Stop opens for business. For those of you who aren't aware, The Bullet Stop is one of the premier gun store/shooting ranges in the Atlanta area. Now mind you, The Bullet Stop isn't your average gun store. They also incorporate a full machine gun shooting range as well as a series of training classes in combat weaponry and anti-terrorist training. How's that for one-stop shopping?

As many of you know, shooting a machine gun for the first time can be an exhilarating experience. The adrenaline starts flowing as you insert the magazine into the weapon, and your heart starts to pound when you release the bolt. For some unknown reason, it takes a few seconds before you can pull the trigger even though you know that this firearm is almost like any other (except for the fact that it spews out 32 bullets in about four seconds!)



Barry Cupp and Tim Milan show some of the hardware available at The Bullet Stop.

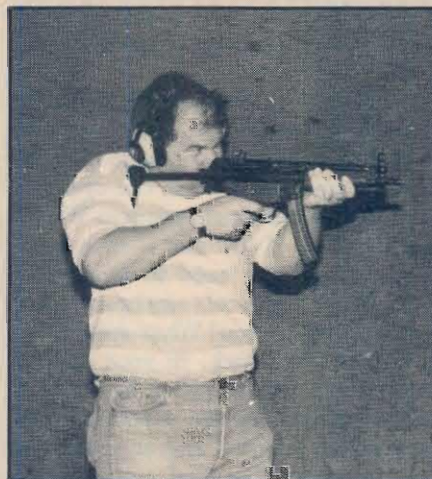




Barry Cupp works behind the counter in the store.

Walking into The Bullet Stop is like walking into a full-auto smorgasbord. The first thing you see is the wall of firepower, over 15 different kinds of automatic weapons to choose from. You can choose the Uzi, MAC-10, H&K MP5-K (my personal favorite) and the MP-3, just to name a few. The range fee is slight and weapon rental won't put you in the poor house. The boxes of ammo aren't priced out of line either, and both 9 mm and .45 caliber are available.

Another unique aspect about The Bullet Stop is their shooting range policy. While most ranges have strict regulations on what and how you shoot, The Bullet Stop has rather interesting policies. First of all, you can shoot in the conventional fashion or from the hip. The second (and possibly most interesting) policy is *what* you can shoot. It's anything goes on the shooting range, and just about anything you could imagine has been shot at, blown up and otherwise disintegrated at The Bullet Stop. Watermelons, computers, briefcases, typewriters (a favorite during Secretaries Week) and bags of flour are just a sampling of the



Tim Milan fires a MAC-10 at The Bullet Stop indoor range.

At the range, the author fires three-round bursts from the HK MP-5.

items that have been obliterated on the indoor range.

In addition to being a full-service gun store/shooting range, The Bullet Stop (known as AMSEC International Corp.) also offers a series of counter-terrorist courses including: Situation Awareness and Counter-Terrorist Orientation, AIC Counter-Terrorist Course, Combat Handgun, Combat Shotgun and Submachine Gun Training, as well as Executive Counter-Force and Executive Security, Risk Analysis and Management Services.

If you happen to be in the market for ammunition, The Bullet Stop may have what you're looking for. They are offering two types of 9 mm Parabellum ammo for an incredibly low price. You may want to give them a call if you are running low.

As you can tell, The Bullet Stop is more than just a conventional gun store. If you happen to live in the Marietta area or are travelling that way for vacation, stop by The Bullet Stop. They're located at 723 Sandtown RD., SW, Dept. ASG, Marietta, GA 30060 (404) 425-3597. Be sure and let them know you read about them in *American Survival Guide* ●



# Survival Lessons

(Continued from page 44)



Savannah, Georgia, residents line up to get their propane gas tanks filled so they will have back-up energy supplies as Hurricane Hugo bears down on the area (UPI/Bettmann Newsphotos).

of planning, stockpiling supplies and rehearsing responses to various disaster scenarios will guarantee protection from harm or loss of possessions.

If you happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, your number may be up. You might have a home full of supplies, emergency money, weapons and so forth and then lose it all in the terrifying suddenness of a devastating earthquake or other misfortune, natural or manmade.

However, some preparation is always better than none at all. Each of us must assess his or her particular situation and then do what we can within our means.

Survival preparations are a form of insurance against the inevitable risks and dangers of life, but there are situations when the best laid plans go awry due to unforeseen circumstances.

The idea behind disaster planning and preparation for various emergencies is to do everything possible and practical to provide yourself and your loved ones, friends and neighbors with protection and sustenance.

I won't go into the basics of such survival preparations here. Local, state and federal governmental agencies and organizations such as the Red Cross as well as radio and television stations or other media and businesses offer basic planning guides, pamphlets and books and other materials on preparedness in abundance.

It's important to know what possible

problems and dangers you face in your particular area. Are there trains running near your home or office carrying poisonous chemicals? Is there a nuclear plant or a large chemical plant nearby? Are you living in an area prone to the ravages of hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, etc.?

Once you've established what threats you face or might face, you'll want to have plans or at least give some thought to what you would do in the event of a problem or worst case scenario. Where would you go if you had to evacuate? What would you need to take with you? What type of emergency kit would best serve you? What should you have at home, work, in your car?

Obviously, you're going to want to have a certain amount of storage food near where you live and or work. It's best to rotate this food occasionally, using the older stuff up before it's no good and keeping your current stocks relatively fresh. There are several types of storage foods. Which type would be best for you to have? Maybe you'll want to have more than one type or some of each type.

Water is even more important than food, at least initially, and you'll want to have whatever amount is practical set aside for emergency uses and protected as best as possible from contamination or destruction. It's also a good idea to have alternative water resources as well, such as water filtration and purification devices and perhaps a plan on how to obtain natural

## sources of potable water.

Seems to me you can never have enough good medical supplies. Your standard, run-of-the-mill first aid kit probably won't serve you very well in a real disaster. Band-aids and a little iodine are inadequate for dealing with severe injuries. The military field dressings and other medical supplies and professional quality first aid kits are always preferred to the local five and dime store varieties. Of course a lot of sophisticated medical supplies won't do you much good if you're not trained and knowledgeable in how best to use it. A certain amount of study in this area is a must. I have to admit, I feel far from adequately trained to deal with severe medical emergencies, though I probably have more knowledge of first aid procedures than the average person.

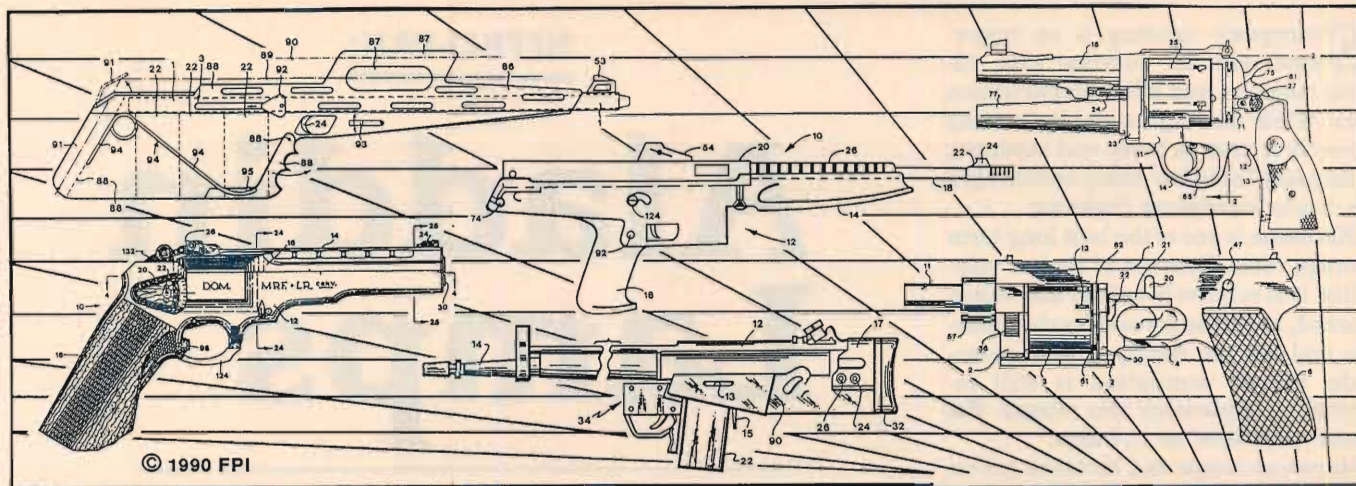
Shelter, heat, light, emergency power and so forth, these could be dealt with in volumes if we had the space. Suffice it to say here that you need to give serious consideration to your particular needs in these areas and look into getting what you need, keeping it ready for use and knowing how to use it.

Weapons? Well that's another area of consideration that comes down to the individual and what he or she believes is best for them. There are of course other means of protection and self preservation that can be employed to augment or as alternatives to weaponry, such as burglar and perimeter alarms and so forth.

And don't forget emergency communications. This is another subject that requires a lot of space to cover in detail. It's vital that you have a source of information after a disaster. At the very least, you ought to have a high quality small AM/FM radio or, even better, an AM/FM/Short Wave receiver, available to you with power sources to operate it (batteries, emergency generator, etc.).

There is undoubtedly much more that could be said on the subject of survival preparedness but there isn't room here. I hope I've at least brought to mind the main subjects to consider in making your own plans and preparations. We have for years covered these various subjects in more detail in this magazine and will continue to do so in the future with the aid of knowledgeable and authoritative people. ●





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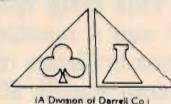
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Kerosene is one of the best long term storage fuels. Because of its low volatility, it is relatively safe to use. When burned, kerosene gives off carbon dioxide and not the deadly carbon monoxide. Proper ventilation is still required to replenish the oxygen the lamp consumes as it burns.

Kerosene lamps and lanterns are no longer the smoky, smelly things they used to be. Aladdin lamps have one of the most advanced burner assemblies and are very fuel efficient. A single gallon of fuel will power a lamp for 50 hours. There is no smoke, no noise, and no need to pressurize the fuel as with most camping lanterns. The lamps are bright — putting out about the same light brightness of a 60 watt bulb.

NITRO-PAK has many different models of Aladdin lamps. The Black-out Kit sells for \$21.95 plus \$4 shipping. It has a sturdy brushed aluminum base, a Corning glass chimney, and a large handle that doubles as a wall bracket. This lamp burns liquid paraffin lamp oil which is provided in the "black-out kit."

The Aladdin "Genie" features a clear diamond patterned glass base for easy viewing of fuel level. This lamp has a tall Lox-on chimney and a mantle that provides the famous brilliance of Aladdin lamps. The lamp stands 20 inches tall and sells for \$38.95 plus \$4.50 shipping.

The top-of-the-line Aladdin lamp is the "Heritage" and is actually two lamps in one. While electricity is still available, it operates like any normal lamp. When power is no longer there, the light bulb socket is replaced with the burner assembly and mantle. Fuel is stored in the handsome brass stand. A 12-inch milk glass shade provides a softer, more pleasing quality of light. The catalog special price of \$115.95 is still in force. Shipping is \$6.

Power black-outs needn't be times of panic or dreary candle-lit darkness. A kerosene lamp is one of the safest fuel lamps for home use and with proper ventilation for oxygen replenishment, you'll enjoy a bright, happy home — a psychological plus during a crisis. ●

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The Aladdin "Genie" has the advanced burner assembly, mantle, and tall glass chimney that produces bright white light equal to a 60 watt bulb.

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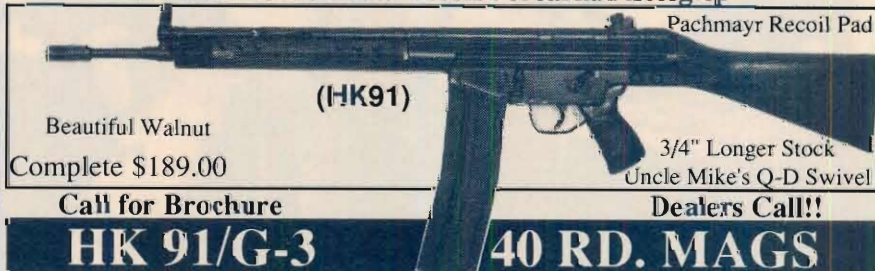
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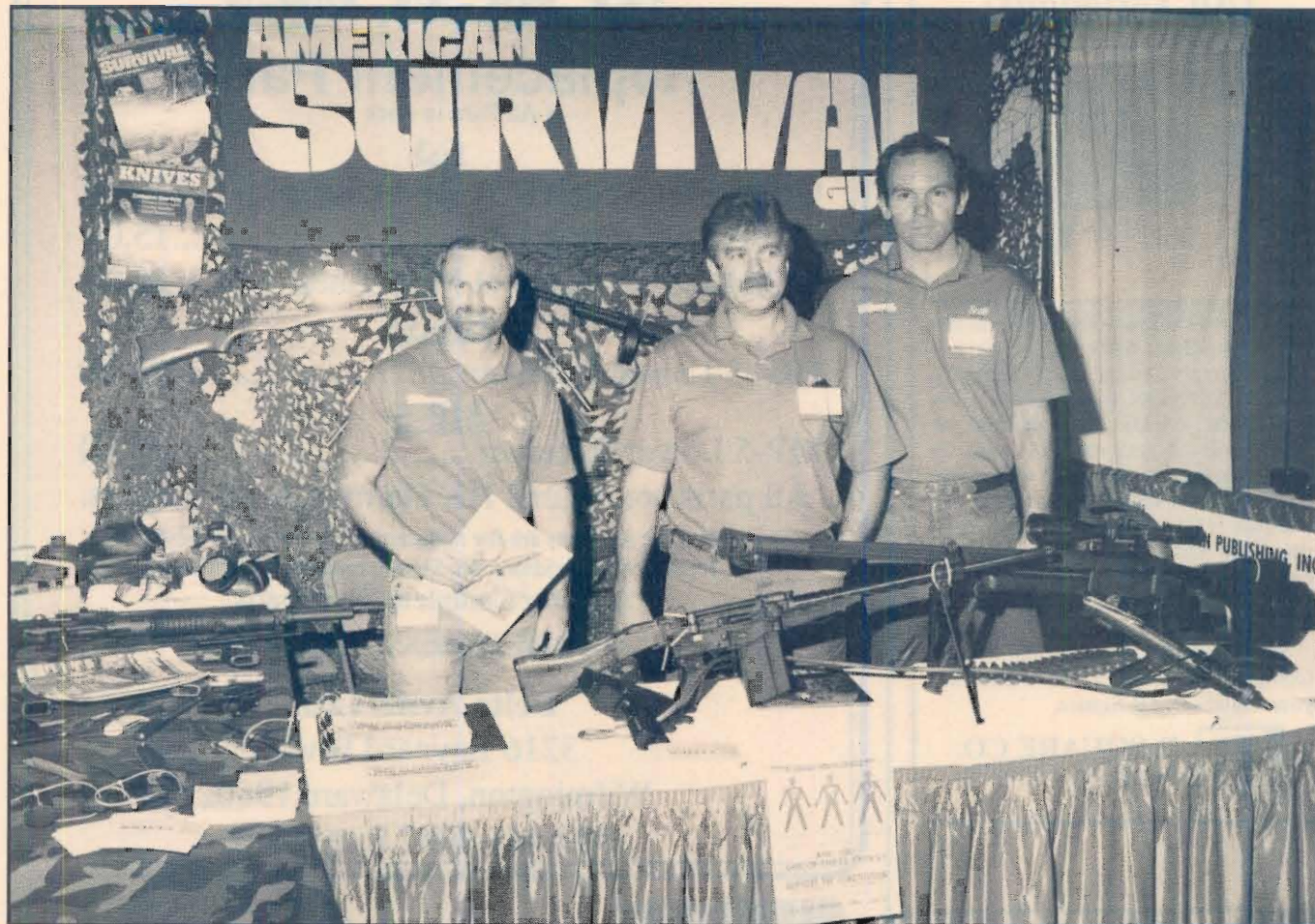
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# Soldier Of Fortune Convention

(Continued from page 55)



ASG Editor Jim Benson, left, Editorial Director Bob Clark, center, and Associate Editor Scott Stoddard at the McMullen Publishing exhibit, SOF Exhibition, at the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas.



Bud Lang, left, editor of *Knives Illustrated* and field editor of *American Survival Guide*, and Scott Stoddard answer questions of visitors at the SOF Exhibition.

bother to deny it anymore."

It's time for the pro-firearms forces to "take the offensive," Brown said. He urged all pro-gun people to join the NRA, "Start organizing for the 1990 elections" and "Challenge existing gun control legislation in the courts and seek its repeal in state legislatures

and in the Congress. For too long gun owners have sat idly by while gun control advocates have gnawed away at the Second Amendment. The time has come to restore the Constitution by demanding that the thicket of opposition gun control advocates have cultivated for the last 60 years be cut out

root and branch."

The staff of ASG plans on returning to the SOF convention next year and we plan on working with the pro-firearms-ownership, pro-freedom groups and organizations of this country to insure that there are many more such conventions in the years to come. ●



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# Backcountry Skiing

(Continued from page 27)

Olaus Magnus, in his book, *History of the Nordic People* (1555) describes skiing: "The inhabitants use long, flat pieces of wood curved up at the front for their speedrunning. They tie these skis to their feet and with the aid of one stick held in their hands they steer themselves and thus run easily up and down the snow-covered mountains at their will. A noticeable characteristic of these skis is that one ski is a foot longer than the other; and the shorter of the two skis should be as long as the skier. The underside of the ski is covered with soft reindeer skin... these people managed to ascend mountains and rush down the steepest valleys which otherwise would have been completely inaccessible to man."

Today cross-country skis are made of light high-tech materials like kevlar and fiberglass. They are narrower than alpine (downhill) skis to reduce friction and longer in length so that they float over soft snow. Bindings only hold the toe to the ski so that you can "stride" or walk with the heel coming up after each power kick.

Reindeer skins were attached to the bottom of skis when climbing steep trails over mountains. The nap of the reindeer fur faced toward the rear of the ski. When the ski was fully weighted, the hairs would dig into the snow and prevent backsliding. Skins don't provide for very good gliding, but their grip is amazing. Climbing skins today are made out of synthetic "fur" and are glued on with a special adhesive. They are easy to put on and take off. To remove them you simply peel them off and stow them away in your pack.



When entering areas with avalanche potential, bring an avalanche transceiver.

Purists still use skis that require a complicated array of waxes with names like violet Fall Line base, Rode green glider or Jackrabbit kicker. Waxable skis require lots of time and a knowledge of snow conditions. They work better in areas where the snow is more uniform with conditions less extreme. In parts of California, where the temperature hovers near freezing, you'd have to change wax two or three times within an hour.

Ski wax is color coded and is applied according to the temperature and condition of the snow. A base wax should be applied to the bare plastic base of the ski. This protects the bottom of the ski and helps bind the next layer — the running wax — to the ski. The base wax should be ironed on by using an old iron on the "wool" setting. Don't let the iron get so hot that the wax smokes. When the ski cools, scrape the surface wax off with a metal scraper. The pores in the base will be full of wax. Repeat the melting-in process and scrape all but a thin film off with a plastic scraper.

Running wax provides kick and glide. You will need to judge the snow and apply a running wax that is just soft enough to grip the snow for a good kick off but not so soft that it ices up. The ski should also be able to glide. Getting a balance between kick and glide is the tricky part. The harder the wax, the better the glide.

Klister is a sticky wax that is usually applied to the kicker strip (the area a foot or so in front and behind the binding). Because a ski is made with a slight bend called *camber*, the kicker strip only touches the ground when full weight is applied to the ski. This helps you glide on the front and rear portion of the ski. When your full weight comes down on the ski for the next stride, the stickier wax will grip and hold the ski in place while you power kick into the next glide.

Waxless skis are easier to handle for beginners and those who don't want to hassle with wax. The waxless variety feature molded "scales" on the ski bottom that prevent you from slipping back downhill. While they are called waxless, you still need to apply a basic glider or base wax to protect the running surface.

Nordic skiing is easy to learn and after only a few hours of practice you should be able to handle a ski tour

into the backcountry. Practice in flat areas and don't go too fast. The diagonal stride is just a natural extension of normal walking — only applied to a person holding two walking sticks and wearing long boards for shoes. Push off with the right pole and left ski and then glide for a few seconds. Before losing momentum, push off with the opposite leg and arm — the left pole and the right ski. When walking, you normally do this anyway. The right leg comes forward with the left arm and vis-versa.

If you feel like falling, try to fall either to the right or left. A friend of mine keeled over straight ahead and caught a ski tip in the forehead. It took quite a while to stop the bleeding. On hillsides try to fall to the uphill side. You'll have an easier job of standing up. Remember the saying, "If your not falling, your not learning."

Making the jump from a day outing tour to an overnight snow camping trip requires good preparation and proper equipment. You should already be an informed, practiced backpacker. You'll need a good four season tent, and a sleeping bag made for winter conditions. A full length closed-cell foam pad does just as much to keep you warm at night as does your sleeping bag.

Nordic skiing is easier with an internal frame pack. Their narrow dimensions permit freedom of arm movement. Skiing with a full pack is hard work so plan to layer your clothes. A polyester long underwear top may be your only layer while you trudge up the slopes. Be prepared with nylon wind shells, wool sweaters and polar fleece insulation layers. Standing around camp is when it gets the coldest. Snow booties are very important if you plan to have warm feet.

Leave early in the morning on the first day and only plan to cover five or six miles. Setting up camp takes a lot of time, especially when fingers are numb and zippers get stuck. It's better to have plenty of daylight at the end of the day for selecting a campsite and packing down the snow for your tent. This is handily done with your skis by side-stepping in the snow with small kick steps thereby forming a solid platform. If you don't take the time, you'll be sleeping in a hole in the morning.

Eat lots of high complex carbohy-



drates for energy and add a bit more fat to your backcountry menus. Frequent snacking is a good way to keep the furnace stoked and with shorter rest breaks you'll prevent chilling. Drink plenty of liquids. Dehydration compounds hypothermia's dangerous effects on circulation by further reducing blood volume. As the blood thickens and circulates more slowly, there's less oxygen going to those oxygen starved cells. This could lead to severe forms of mountain sickness.

Be safe and smart before even stepping out the front door of your home. Check the weather report and make sure there are no storms forecast during your planned trip. Then plan as if you will encounter a blizzard. Notify family, friends and forest rangers of your trip itinerary and then check back with them when you leave the area.

Backcountry skiing opens up to you the wonderland of the winter wilderness. Practice with short trips only a few minutes from the car. Then once you've mastered the skis, the clothing and the food, there's no limit to your horizons. ●

### Backcountry Skiing Checklist

#### Day tour only:

skis, shoes, poles  
mittens, socks, hat  
gaiters  
rain or storm shell  
Swiss Army knife  
waterproof matches, candles  
sunglasses, sunscreen (SPF 30)  
lip balm (SPF 30)  
first aid kit  
toilet paper  
flashlight  
map and compass  
lunch plus emergency food  
water bottles (full)  
ski wax  
repair kit  
day pack

#### Snow camping equipment:

internal frame pack  
sleeping bag  
foam sleeping pad  
extra clothing, underwear  
wool/nylon blend socks  
snow booties  
parka or warm sweater  
wool pants  
light windpants and shell  
balaclava or wool cap  
down coat  
four season tent  
bivouac sack  
candle lantern  
stove, fuel, pots  
spoon, bowl, plastic cup  
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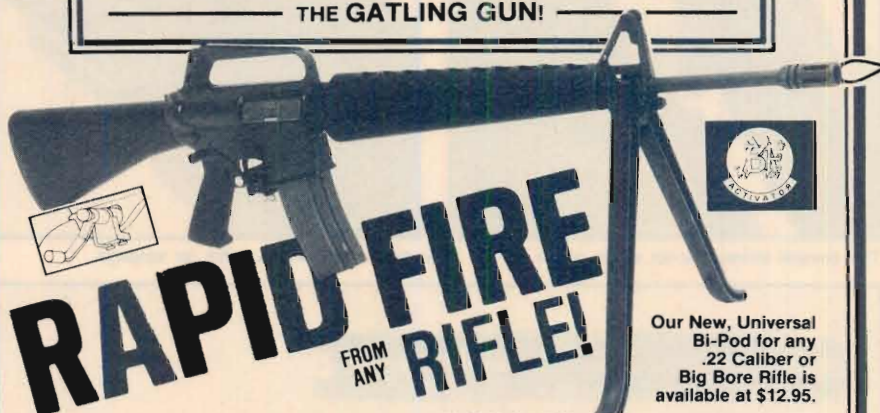
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# PO 18 9mm Pistol

(Continued from page 24)



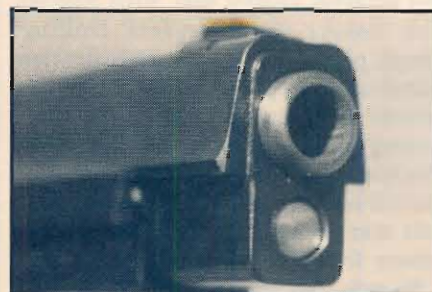
Magazine release button is reversible for left-handers. Note lanyard ring on grip.



The dovetail three-white-dot sights of the PO 18. Rear sight is screw adjustable for windage.



Field stripping is easy and requires no tools.



The muzzle protrudes from the slide about 1/4 inch.

Firing from a standing position without a rest and using one and two-hand holds at targets from about 10 to 50 yards, we were impressed with the inherent accuracy of the pistol. After a brief familiarization with the gun and the sights, which were not adjusted, we were able to repeatedly make hits on bottles, cans, jugs and other objects we shot at. I had misses of course, but many of these were near enough to the targets that I could tell this gun is quite accurate. There were no malfunctions experienced with any of the ammunition during our test shooting. Trigger pull is smooth, with the double action pull around 12 pounds and the single action pull about 4. The pistol operated smoothly and reliably.

Magnum Research reports that extensive test firing of the PO 18 with CCI Blazer, Federal, Hornady, Remington, PMC, GECO, Winchester and IMI Eagle, and other ammunition showed very good results for function and accuracy.

Its sharp looks, accuracy and reliable operation and high quality construction will insure the PO 18's appeal to American shooters. It's a gun that should give its owner a lifetime of excellent service and shooting satisfaction. ●

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Action/operation ..... double action, recoil-operated, locked breech

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Barrel ..... 4.8"  
Height ..... 5 7/8"  
Sights ..... front blade, rear square notch with 3-dot system (rear windage adjustable)  
Sight radius ..... 6"  
Magazine capacity ..... 16  
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Importer ..... Magnum Research, Inc.,  
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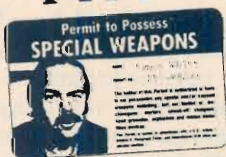
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## 1989 Giveaway No. 2:

# Guardman Wins Shotgun

*Striker 12, other guns, knives won . . .*

### Staff Report

A second lieutenant in the National Guard and college student from Helena, Montana, won the top prize — A Striker 12 motor-driven revolving drum 12-shot, 12 gauge shotgun from Law Enforcement Ordnance Corp. — in ASG's 1989 Giveaway No. 2 contest.

"I intend to keep my shotgun to practice marksmanship," said Giveaway No. 2 first prize winner Mark O'Neill, 22. "I enjoy spending time in the woods hunting and fishing. My friends and I will use it to hunt various game near home." O'Neill said besides attending college he serves in the National Guard "where I fire the really big guns: the M1A1 Abrams tank."

Prize No. 2, an RWS Diana Model 52 .177 caliber magnum air rifle was won by Eric Thompson, 40, of Snohomish, Washington. Prize No. 3 was the Feather Industries KG-22 no-lubrication camouflage finish .22 semi-automatic carbine, which was won by Mark Reichert, 34, of Kimball, Nebraska.

Donald Hefly, a 20-year-old soldier in the U.S. Army from Ft. Drum, New York, won the fourth prize, the Machax Survival Tool from Becker Knife & Tool Corp. And Prize No. 5, the Delta Raider knife from Benchmade Knife Company, was won by John Jensen, 34, a mechanic from Annapolis, Maryland.

Winners from the last 1989 contest, Giveaway No. 3, will be announced in an upcoming issue of ASG.

See this issue for details and entry form for the ASG 1990 Giveaway No. 1 contest. Win a year's food supply, the handgun featured on the cover of this issue or other great prizes. ●



# SURVIVALIST DIRECTORY

**T**HIS IS A CONFIDENTIAL listing of survivalists who wish to become known to others of like mind. *American Survival Guide* will accept properly coded mail and forward it to the coded addresses without charge. *American Survival Guide* accepts no responsibility for the contents or results of these confidential communications. Mass mailings are not permitted.

ASG 0101

**Sacramento, California.** Beginning survivalist needs training and/or information on training. I am a fast learner and serious. Also seeking survival group and/or people with same intentions.

ASG 0102

**Summerville, Georgia.** Would like to join or start a survival group in Northwest Georgia area. No commies or druggies. Pro-American only.

ASG 0103

**Greeley, Colorado.** Survivalist couple seeks correspondence with other survivalists in area with serious interest in starting a group for self-sufficiency, self-support and defense (last resort). Also wish to start an information network for sharing ideas, opinions, and knowledge. Our background: law enforcement, military, English teacher, seamstress, EMT. All encouraged to write except racists, radicals or zealots.

ASG 0104

**Montreal, Canada.** Paramilitary types want to join or form group and correspond with others. We have our own equipment. No extremists, druggies or crazies.

ASG 0105

**Northeast United States.** Navy vet and merchant seaman seeking contact with survivalists having maritime interests.

ASG 0106

**Salina, Kansas.** Individual male, 27, wants to create an ultra-elite group of ultimate survivalists. A group trained and conditioned to be strong in spirit, mind, and body. I am seeking survival information, training facilities and equipment/supplies, and possible financial support. Will consider all but commies, racists or gays. Dedication to survival and family values a must. We will train to survive in all conditions.

ASG 0107

**Ontario, Canada.** We are a young couple in their twenties with one child. Ex-armed forces with survival training. Looking for couples to form a retreat in northern Ontario. Couples must have a will to survive, and work as a group. Singles also welcome. Please send a letter of introduction, with list of your skills. No racists, bigots, or crazies need apply. All letters will be answered.

ASG 0108

**Albuquerque, New Mexico.** Survival group with a low-cost safe place option is looking for additional members. We are looking for doers who believe the time of Armageddon is here now and who can't otherwise afford survival.

ASG 0901

**United States/Canada.** Two single, intelligent females, 35, a teacher and a counselor, would like to contact other Christian survivalists. Seeking contacts, beneficial associations, individuals or groups. Possible purchase of group property, supplies for defense, or joint information exchange. We are not religious fanatics, New Age, metaphysical, or into drugs and would welcome responses from serious, discrete, like-minded people. All inquiries answered.

ASG 0110

**Northeast Illinois / Southeast Wisconsin.** Family oriented survival/defense group is seeking new members for our newly formed group. Only moral, serious minded survivalists are desired. Families and singles are both welcomed. No druggies, racists, gays or Rambos need apply.

ASG 0111

**Northern Virginia.** Group seeking those individuals who desire to join others whose motivation is survival. All occupations, ages, races, religions, and backgrounds. Male and female. Also seek contact with groups, families, and individuals throughout North America. Present or past military service good, but not required. All talents needed.

Should have own equipment. Will answer all letters ASAP. Please send a short resume, background data, and photo if possible. No racists, communists, druggies, Satanists, or anti-Americans need write.

ASG 0112

**Jamaica, New York.** Ex-military, forming a paramilitary group in New York City to train in Upstate New York on weekends. Training in Guerrilla warfare, overt and covert ops, Special Forces style. Write for application.

ASG 0113

**Southwest Utah.** I am a 50-year-old male interested in talking to or writing people in the area about starting a group. I am trained in firearms: rifle, handgun, reloading, firearm repair. I have 130+ hours of first aid training and know auto/truck repair. Will keep all responses in confidence.

ASG 0114

**Alberta, Canada.** Established retreat accepting membership applications. Nuclear safe zone, greenhouse-effect optimal, self-supporting working retreat. Open to resident or absent membership. Send detailed applications.

ASG 0115

**Houston, Texas.** Attention: Must make immediate contact with Scorpio's group. Situation: emergency/critical.

ASG 0116

**Plano, Texas.** New survivalist is interested in creating or joining a low profile group/network based on the "Tri-State" philosophy. Contact if interested or curious, will reply to all. No restrictions on race, sex, sexual orientation, age, etc.

ASG 0117

**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.** 23-year-old white male in Central Oklahoma wants to form a small survivalist group in general area. Interested in all facets of small group tactical and survival training, N.B.C. and firearms. I'm proud of my country and expect that of all my friends. No anti-Americans, gays, druggies, pacifists or urban-type people. Wanted, vets, couples, adults.

ASG 0118

**Honesdale, Pennsylvania.** Survivalist family relocating to central Florida. Looking for small house with room for gardening in a rural community. Write.

ASG 0119

**Norfolk, Virginia.** Renaissance couple in mid thirties, interested in correspondence with others in 100-120 mile radius for the purpose of training, idea/information. No commies, racists or gays. All honest and serious mail answered.

ASG 0120

**United States.** Doing time in the Fed's — be out soon. I'm a member of the 7C Hard-core survivalists group looking for old and new contacts. Looking to make a new survival/defense group. No druggies or gays. All serious inquiries answered.

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## No Apologies

This is in response to a critical letter published in last month's issue by a disgruntled competitor. You can't please everybody all the time, especially one's competitors. But you can please most of the people most of the time. That is exactly what we do for all our customers with our NITRO-PAK year's supply units and other supplies. We sell the best year's supply food reserve units in the preparedness industry and at an attractive price. Anyone seeing our 5-page ad in the October issue of ASG (we'll send a photo copy on request) will realize how much more a NITRO-PAK food storage unit has to offer them and what good sense it makes to acquire one right now! Everything we said was factual and the most up to date information available at publication. Just take a look at those caught unprepared by Hurricane Hugo. It makes good sense to get prepared now and have a food reserve just in case. We make no apologies to anyone for providing all the incentives people need to acquire one of our year's supply units. Food is an essential survival item. Without food, you die — it's as simple as that. That's why even the skull and crossbones in our ad makes sense. It reminds people how serious — how deadly serious — the need for survival food insurance really is. What we said was not refuted. Caveat emptor! As a leader in the industry, we at NITRO-PAK are committed to do *everything* we can to make sure people understand how critical having an emergency food storage supply is and to making sure they have it.

Harry R. Weyandt, owner  
NITRO-PAK Survival Foods & Supplies

## Jewish Gun Hate

In response to Aaron Zelman's letter "Jewish Gun Hate" (Sept. 1989 issue), the issue of gun ownership is not a Jewish-Christian issue — it is a political issue which by definition means power of one group over another. To accuse Jews of being anti-gun is another diversionary tactic used by anti-gunners to divide responsible gun owners and thus to conquer us. Stirring up anti-Semitism is a good way to divert the attention of people from what is really going on. As a resident of Massachusetts, this seems fairly clear to me since Ted Kennedy is the number one gun opponent in our neck of the woods. His name, along with many other non-Jews, is on the Met-

zenbaum-Stark bill as supporters of that most blatantly anti-Constitutional legislation. What I want to know is who is behind the anti-gun movement? The Patrick Purdy Stockton, California school yard shooting incident was used to galvanize popular support for the anti-gun movement but who are the organizers and what are their long range goals and intentions?

Howard B. Schechter  
Ph.D., NRA, Jew

As a long term reader of your magazine, I read Aaron Zelman's letter with revulsion and disbelief. The quotes "Jews don't appreciate what America has done for them" and "The 11th commandment for Jews is to hate guns and everyone who owns one," taken together with his other lies, misstatements, convoluted reasoning and anti-Semitic generalities, seems to portend a tragedy unfolding, reminiscent of Nazi Germany. I won't even stoop to question what kind of a Jew, Zelman is. I, my family and numerous Jewish friends are avid shooters and gun enthusiasts. There are many Jews, Christians, Moslems and even Atheists who do not share my enthusiasm for guns. Why Zelman should single out "Jewish politicians" and "the Jews who support them" for his special treatment, is the anti-Semitic, anti-logic that ties his vacuous arguments together. Jews are only about 2.7% of the total U.S.A. population. Obviously a whole lot of non-Jewish voters are supporting these "Jewish politicians" and supposedly these "select" politicians are representing the will of their electorate. The fact that Zelman fears "violent retaliation" against the Jews, "Particularly those who publicly denounce the Second Amendment to the Constitution," angers me no end. If this type of anarchy occurred, I am sure that Zelman would be right in front with banners unfurled, leading the way. The true giveaway in Zelman's evil diatribe is his reference to "Christian America." Isn't this the line espoused by the KKK and numerous ~~other~~ hate groups? Incidentally, Jews fare quite well in many countries that prohibit gun ownership — most of Europe, for example. I totally disagree with Zelman's theory that "America

is a land of freedom because of its armed citizenry." It's obvious he hasn't read the Constitution, whose simple yet brilliantly stated principles are clearly the Truths that guarantee our freedom. Idiots like Zelman I understand. But you in your editorial comments, in which you "share in his concern about the distressing gun hatred of Jews in the media and government" are far more subtle. Surely you have an obligation to your readers to at least attempt to hide your anti-Semitism.

Michael Solender  
Los Angeles, California

*We beg to differ with your opinions about Aaron Zelman and us. We're puzzled by your comments, as you, on one hand profess to be an avid gun enthusiast and on the other seem to agree with the anti-gun-ownership movement that prohibiting gun ownership is all right and not a threat to our freedom. Aaron Zelman responds: I'm not surprised that a politically conservative patriotic Jew who staunchly supports widespread gun ownership would be bombarded with thinly veiled hate by liberal Jewish organizations (see Anti-Defamation League letter in last month's issue) and Jews who are brainwashed by these organizations. The hate mail directed towards me is proof that America is faced with gun hating ghouls who are adamantly determined to disarm the citizenry so the government can totally enslave the citizenry. I call it The Hitler Doctrine practiced by Jews and non-Jews who lust for Big Brother Government and disarmament of the masses. Anti-gun organizations and individuals who claim to be gun owners must be stopped. I ask ASG readers to refer to the November 1989 issue containing the interview with me (pages 48-51). Please join the organization I have founded, Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership. Together we can fight The Hitler Doctrine while we still can. JPFO membership needs the support of non-Jews and is open to both Jews and non-Jews. Contact JPFO, 2872 S. Wentworth Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207; (414) 769-0760.*

Aaron Zelman  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin •



Big Brother:

# The Privacy Invasion

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*It is estimated that the federal government maintains nearly 4 billion files on American citizens...*

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The paper and plastic trail. Each item you see here generates at least one file about you or your activities. More and more agencies are getting access to these records about you.

By Michael Pietrantoni

**A**mong the many rights and privileges guaranteed to American citizens by the U.S. Constitution, nowhere is there mentioned a "right" to privacy.

Increasingly to both government and private industry, personal information about individuals has become a valuable commodity, a currency to be traded and sold. With the continued increase in the value of information Americans are beginning to see their treasured illusion of privacy crumble.

It is estimated that the Federal government maintains in one form or another nearly 4 billion files on American citizens. These files are contained in nearly 7,000 computerized data bases spread throughout all levels of the U.S. government. Fighting to catch up is U.S. private industry. One company alone, TRW Information Services, a consumer credit information com-

pany, has files on more than 120 million Americans. In any given year TRW sells information on up to 50 million Americans to its subscribers.

Survivalists who wish to maintain a low profile might do well to consider the availability of very personal and private information about themselves, to a whole range of government and private industry users. As is becoming increasingly evident in this day and age, information is power, and information about the individual is power over that individual.

Almost all of us have drivers licenses, Social Security cards, birth certificates, voter registration cards, etc. Many have student loans, or have applied for a government job. A good percentage of us have served in the military. All of these activities have generated records which in almost all cases are now on some reel of computer tape in some department or agency of the government. It is estimated that an average person will accumulate almost 30 such government documents throughout his working life.

It is of course obvious that the agencies to which you submit data about yourself will maintain a file about you. What is not so obvious is that data is made available to other agencies through the linking of computers, and that it might be used in a way you never envisioned. It has now become routine for federal agencies to share data with each other and with state agencies.

Such data trading has been used thus far mainly in civil and criminal matters, locating fathers who haven't paid child support by going through their tax records, or young males who haven't registered for the draft when they apply for a student loan. These are uses of data sharing between agencies that few of us would argue with. This same ability, however, can and has been misused.

To the IRS you are a mere one-fifth of an inch of computer tape. Within that one-fifth of an inch of tape is contained the last three years of your tax-paying life.

Though the information supplied to



the IRS is supposed to be confidential and used only in matters relating to tax law compliance there have been over the years instances where that information has been put to uses other than for which it was intended. For example in 1969 the Justice Department, in response to the increasing number of anti-war protests, established a list of persons and organizations that were "politically" suspect. The Justice Department turned this list over to the IRS and requested any available information about those on the list. In response the IRS created a unit known as the Special Service Staff, SSS, whose job was to gather intelligence on those on the Justice Department list. Over 2,000 organizations and 5,000 individuals were secretly investigated by the IRS, not because of any suspected tax cheating, but solely because of their political opinions. The groups and individuals ranged from the far left to the far right of the political spectrum. By 1973 word about the program had begun to leak out and the SSS unit was disbanded. By the end of the same year, however, a new system, the Intelligence Gathering Retrieval System was established. This system, in just a few short months had a list of a half million names, all targeted for "general investigation." None of the people whose names were entered into this system were suspected of tax cheating. The only criteria for being placed in the system was the IRS decision that a file on that person might have "future value."

**TCMP** — The IRS currently runs an information system known as the Taxpayer Compliance Measurement Program, TCMP. This system is used to predict the compliance with tax laws of the taxpaying public. Every so often the system randomly selects thousands of individuals across the country and categorizes them according to a number of factors. Each one is then investigated in depth, without his knowledge, with the results of the investigations being fed into computers. What the computers give back is the statistical probability of someone in a particular category, be it income level, type of job, location of residence, etc., cheating on his taxes. The IRS then uses this information to concentrate their auditors and investigators on the categories of those people who have been predicted as most likely to cheat on their taxes.

Once every 10 years, under the

threat of legal prosecution, all American households are required to provide detailed information to the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau assures the public that the information provided will remain confidential. It is in fact true that census information is among the most tightly guarded information in the government.

During times of emergency however such assurances of confidentiality by government agencies have often gone by the wayside. The census bureau is no exception. During World War I census data was used to locate men who did not register for the draft. In WW II census information was used to help roundup over 100,000 Americans of Japanese descent so that they could be "relocated" into internment camps. In both cases, long before the advent of the computer, the Census Bureau provided invaluable information to other agencies of the government. Given current technology, the potential for abuse of census data has increased a thousand fold.

Almost 10 million people are arrested in the U.S. each year. Almost 6 million of them are either acquitted, never prosecuted, or have the charges against them dismissed.

Regardless of the eventual outcome of the arrest, all of the 10 million will now have an arrest record. Their names are distributed from computer system to computer system, and whether they were found innocent or not, their arrest record is in most cases now a permanent part of their lives.

**Arrest Records** — Besides law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, and local levels, many others have access to these records. Among them, credit bureaus, employers, college admission boards, landlords, insurance companies, the press, licensing agencies, etc. While some of these parties are limited by law as to how they can use this information, i.e., employers of 15 or more persons cannot deny you a job if you were arrested but not convicted, others can use the information as they see fit. In most cases they are not even required to tell you that they are using your arrest record in their decisions about you.

Some states have enacted laws concerning the availability and use of arrest records by third parties. Most states however, either have no such regulations, or have regulations with so many loopholes that they in effect allow virtually anyone access to criminal records.

Federal regulations regarding access to your records cover federal agencies and those state systems which receive funding from the Justice Department (formerly administered by the now defunct Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, LEAA). According to the American Civil Liberties Union, "given all the exceptions of the LEAA regulations... it cannot be said that the personal data in criminal justice records are confidential in any practical sense."

A statement by Supreme Court Justice William Rhenquist seems to sum up the view of various levels of government regarding the confidentiality of criminal justice records, "to speak of an arrest as a private occurrence seems to... stretch even the broadest definition of the idea of privacy beyond the breaking point."

One other note about arrest records. They may not necessarily be confined to use only in the U.S. If your name appears in the FBI's National Crime Information Center computers, NCIC, (if you have been arrested it almost surely does), then police officials from over 120 countries have access to it through Interpol, the international police organization. Interpol has a direct hookup to the NCIC system through the U.S. Treasury Department, and can query the system in the same way as U.S. police officers. It is quite conceivable that you could find a file on yourself in such exotic places as Iran or Uganda, especially if you had ever applied for a visa to travel to one of those lovely scenic spots.

For a mere \$7.50 a landlord in the metropolitan Los Angeles area can receive a detailed personal history of a potential tenant. If you live in a metropolitan area and have ever filed a complaint against your landlord, or if you have ever been sued by your landlord, these facts are available to anyone who wishes to go through the public records. Since 1977 however there has been little need to do it yourself. A company called U.D. Registry, and now many similar companies, have been computerizing these public records and selling this information to landlords under the guise of protecting landlords from unreliable tenants. These data bases have sprung up across the country.

People who have legitimately filed suit against landlords for perfectly justifiable reasons, are now finding themselves on a tenant blacklist. Landlords use these services to screen out potential troublemakers from consider-



# The Privacy Invasion

ation as tenants. The merits of the prior lawsuit, whether you won or lost etc., are relevant factors to many building owners who subscribe to these services. By simply exercising your legal rights, perhaps many years ago, you are in jeopardy of being unable to find a place to live. Further, there are no laws against landlords using these data services in their decisions of whom to rent to.

Do you think that your banking activities are just between you and your bank? While federal officials are required to go through specific procedures in order to obtain your banking records, individuals such as landlords, investigators, or businesses such as insurance companies are not required to do so. In only a few states are banks regulated as to what information they may give out and to whom it may be disclosed without account holders' permission. Most states leave the matter up to the banks themselves to decide. Some banks are very lax, others very strict regarding the providing of information to outside parties.

Banks are required by law to maintain microfilm records of the checks you have written against your account for at least the past five years. Think for a moment about the information that can be had about you by looking at your checking history. Organizations to which you belong and have paid dues to, the types of magazines you subscribe to, individuals you have dealt with, your drinking habits (if you have paid for liquor store purchases by check), your religious affiliations if you donate by check, the number of visits made to your physician (or psychiatrist), etc., etc. Your checkbook is like a telescope into your life for anyone interested enough to look.

If you have ever been in the hospital or applied for life or health insurance, or made a personal injury claim, the odds are that somewhere along the line you signed a consent form allowing the release of information about yourself. The odds are that that information wound up in the computers of the Medical Information Bureau, MIB.

Until 1973 very few people even knew of the existence of the MIB. It was in that year, through the investigations of Senator William Proxmire, that information about the MIB, or as Senator Proxmire called it, "the medical CIA," began to become available.



Law enforcement agencies need a court authorization to tap a conventional telephone like the one at left here. No such court order is required to intercept conversations on a cordless phone such as the one at right here. Anyone with a shortwave receiver can listen to your conversation on a cordless phone.

The MIB is the national data bank shared by the 780 member insurance companies. It is headquartered in Greenwich, Conn., and has files on more than 10 million people in the U.S. The MIB was formed to provide relevant information to insurers about applicants for medical or life insurance policies.

The information contained in MIB files ranges from the results of medical tests such as Xrays, blood tests, EKGs etc., to information regarding specific illnesses. Codes in the MIB system denote such things as respiratory, cardiovascular, or gastrointestinal illnesses, as well as psychiatric diagnoses and prior claims against insurers. Even such things as driving habits or engaging in risky or hazardous sports have become part of MIB files.

The bulk of MIB information is obtained by having insurers pool their information about their clients in the MIB system. When you go to your doctor or to a hospital and use your insurance coverage to pay, that information goes from the doctor or hospital to the insurance company and then into the MIB system.

With almost a half million files added to the MIB each year maintaining accuracy of the data becomes a

horrendous logistical problem often resulting in false data being entered into the system. If you have ever been denied insurance, or have had your insurance premiums unaccountably raised, ask your doctor to assist you in obtaining your MIB files. In most cases MIB will only release its information about you to the insurance community or to a licensed physician.

**Credit, Investigation Records** — Ideally, credit reporting companies, of which there are five major ones in the U.S., will issue only objective and factual data concerning your credit worthiness, and then only to a potential lender.

Unfortunately credit reports, many with glaring inaccuracies, often find their way into the hands of employers, insurance companies, law enforcement and other government agencies, landlords, and many others whom you most likely did not envision as having access to these records.

Worse still is the problem of accuracy of the data compiled by credit reporting companies. Each year TRW, the largest credit reporting company, receives complaints from some 350,000 individuals upon whom it has furnished reports. On average over 100,000 of



those complaints result in TRW changing the information in its records.

The amassing of credit information is such a growing and lucrative business in the U.S. that TRW owns and uses the world's single largest concentration of computers, outside of the government, to handle the massive flow of data.

Credit reports, while not always accurate, at least attempt to deal only with facts. Not so investigative reports.

The investigative report primarily concerns itself not with objective facts, but with subjective opinions regarding a person's lifestyle. These opinions are most frequently those of neighbors, friends, and business associates.

The primary users of such reports are insurance companies and employers. One company, Equifax Inc., is by far the dominant force in the investigative report field. With 7,000 investigators on its staff, Equifax compiles more than 20 million investigative reports each year.

Typically an Equifax investigator will spend 20 minutes or so talking to a neighbor, former employer, or some other acquaintance of the person being investigated. The questions asked will concern themselves with the subject's personality and lifestyle. The resulting report will frequently read like a supermarket tabloid. For example these tidbits were taken from actual Equifax reports, — the subject uses "his hands in an effeminate manner," or in another case the subject practiced "moral standards and habits which may not be accepted standards of society."

With 20 million reports being made by Equifax alone (there are other companies doing investigative reports) the potential for damage in lost jobs or promotions, and insurance coverage cancellations or rejections, is enormous.

**Conclusion** — "The right to be left alone is the most comprehensive of rights, and the right most valued by civilized man." — The late Supreme Court Justice, Louis D. Brandies

As noted by Robert Ellis Smith in his book *Privacy, How To Protect What's Left Of It*, the concern over individual rights of privacy is essentially one of control. Control by the individual of personal information, its dissemination, its uses, and its ultimate effects on the course of one's own life.

The threats of privacy cited in this article are just a tiny fraction of the whole picture. That picture, through

the advance of technology, continues to grow. Threats that did not exist a few years ago are now commonplace. For example, how many people are aware that police do not need a court authorization to listen in on phone conversations if someone is using a cordless phone? Or that pre-employment lie detector and drug tests are becoming commonplace?

One of the basic elements of survivalism is preparation for as wide a range of possibilities and occurrences as possible. Preparation in the effort to maintain one's privacy consists of knowing what your rights and options are, and in exercising those rights if your policy is violated.

*The Prisoner*, a popular TV show a number of years ago, had in its introduction the voice of the main character saying, "I will not be pushed, filed, stamped, indexed, briefed, debriefed, or numbered." Perhaps we are reaching the point where each of us will soon be able to see some of *The Prisoner* in ourselves. ●

#### How to Find Out Who's Got What On You

Under the Freedom of Information Act of 1966 and the Privacy Act of 1974 you have the right to request access to records held by any federal agency. This access can only be denied for "compelling" reasons, national security for example.

In order to get access to the records which are of interest to you, you must first identify the agency which holds the information. In your library you should be able to find a copy of the Federal Register's *Protecting Your Rights To Privacy: Digest of Systems of Records*. This is a complete listing of all federal data bases in use. You might also try your congressman or senator's office if you have trouble in locating a particular document.

Once you locate the agency which holds the records you want make a written request to the agency's Freedom Of Information officer. Make the request as specific as possible. The agency must respond to your request in 10 days or less. Should your request be denied you have the right to appeal the decision, and under the Privacy Act, the right to sue for access.

The Fair Credit Reporting Act of 1970 allows you access to most of the files concerning yourself held by credit reporting companies.

If you have been denied credit, or lost insurance or a loan, or a job opportunity, because of a credit or investigative report about you, you have the right to the name of the company issuing that report and the right to know the "nature and substance" of that report. The credit reporting companies cannot charge you for a copy of your report in the above circumstances. If you simply wish a copy of the information a credit reporting company holds on you, the company can charge you a modest fee for copying and postage. You have the right to correct any false information in your file, as well as the right to know who has had access to your file in the past six months.

The American Civil Liberties Union has free pamphlets detailing your right of access to records. Request copies by writing to: ACLU, 132 W. 43rd St. NY, NY 10036.

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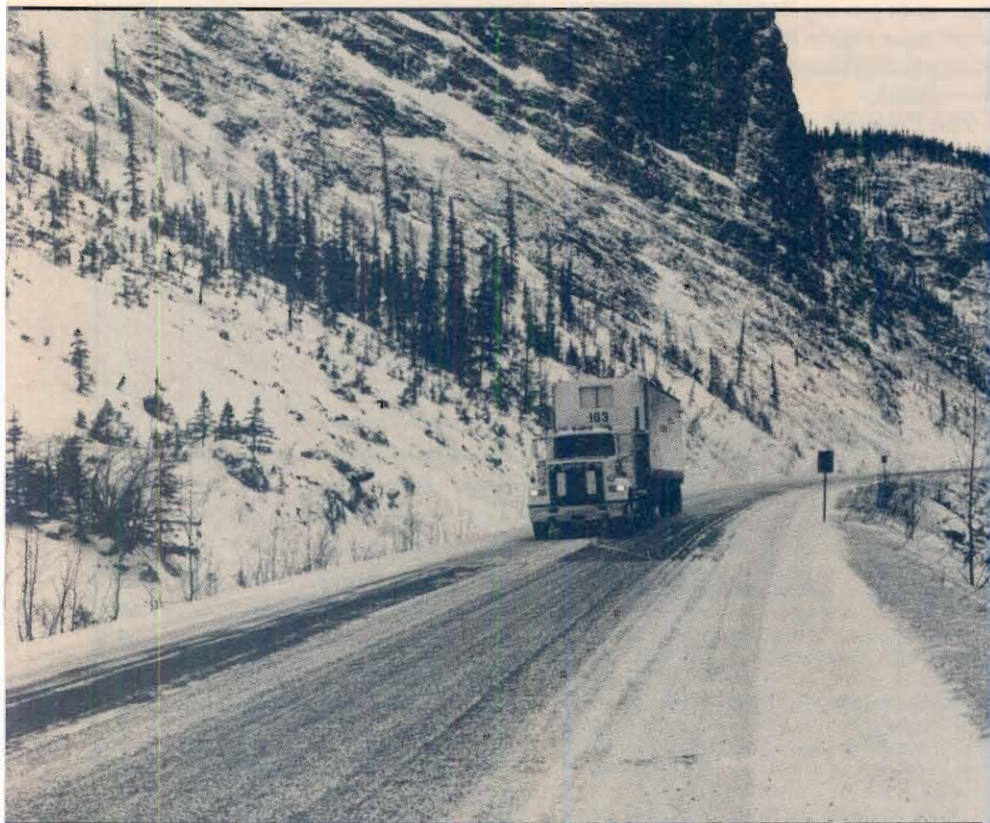
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## Winter Driving:

*'It is going to get cold! I mean cold like you may have never experienced before. . . your engine needs special consideration' . .*

# Alaskan Highway



When you meet an 18-wheeler, for your own safety, it's best to pull over and stop. They can create a whiteout condition you can not see to drive in.

**By Capt. Van E. Harl**

**W**HEN I received notification that I was going to be stationed at Elmendorf A.F.B. Alaska, I was ecstatic. This was the Alaskan dream assignment I had been waiting for. The only drawback was, I had to be there in January.

I had lived in Alaska as a child and my wife and I drove up the Alaskan Highway in the summer of 1978 on our honeymoon. The big question was, whether I was going to brave the Yukon winter to drive the 3,841 miles from Chanute A.F.B., Illinois, or go to Seattle and take the ferry. I intended to drive a 1986 Isuzu Trooper II and pull an eight-foot trailer full of items I would need for the first few months

in Anchorage. I also had it packed tight with what I deemed important survival gear.

I called the Alaska State Ferry System and found out it would cost over three times the price of a vehicle fare to take a vehicle and trailer combination. Since I had plans to use the trailer during my three-year tour in Alaska, I did not want to leave it in the lower forty-eight. The decision was made to drive the Alaskan Highway and pull the trailer.

Once I made the decision to drive, the first thing I did was purchase a copy of the latest Alaskan Mile Post book. This book was the bible for driving in the north country. My wife and I had successfully used it during our 1978 trip. It had an excellent break-

down of maps and explanations of what goes on every mile/kilometer of the Alaskan Highway. It showed us where to eat, camp, gas up or find a motel. You can get the book at most book stores or by writing to Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 130 2nd S., Edmonds, WA 98020.

After enduring numerous flats and wearing out my front two tires because of a poor alignment on my 1978 trip, I swore, If I ever went again, the first thing I would do to the vehicle I would drive, was to get a front end alignment and a new set of tires.

You will need an extra spare tire and a couple of cans of fix-a-flat. They might come in handy. Even if you are driving a four-wheel-drive vehicle, you need to get a set of tire chains and some bungee cords to help with the inevitable traction problems you will have. The highway will be plowed, but you will routinely be driving on packed snow throughout the entire trip. If you have a four-wheel-drive, you might consider having two sets of tire chains, so you can chain-up all four tires. You will be amazed at how much traction you will have. Try the chains on before you need them to make sure you know how to put them on, and that you have the correct size.

After acquiring the tires and chains I continued with the maintenance of my vehicle. I had a tune-up done and an oil change. I had the thinnest oil recommended for my vehicle put in, in anticipation of the thickening capabilities of the cold weather on oil. Make sure you take an adequate supply of oil with you.

Extra gas cans are a must, especially in the winter. A lot of the mom and pop gas stations that are open in the summer are closed down for the winter season. As a minimum, I would suggest at least two 5-gallon gas cans. Even if you have a vehicle with a built in spare gas tank take one 5-gallon can. You never know when you may have to hitch 50 miles to get gas because of a puncture hole in your gas tank. Carry some epoxy-based gas tank leak sealant to fix that hole before pouring in that 5 gallons of gas you worked so hard to acquire.

**Cold** — It is going to get cold! I mean





Mile marker one at Dawson Creek, British Columbia, the beginning of the Alaskan Highway.



A three-story log cabin in downtown Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.



Mid-day on the road in the Yukon Territory. Low intensity winter sunlight makes it appear later in the day than it actually is.

cold like you may have never experienced before. Because of this, your engine needs some special consideration. There are a number of in-line heater systems available; one may be installed to your radiator system and other options are block heaters or dipstick heaters. There are also magnetic electric heaters that you can stick on your oil pan or the bottom of the radiator. These will warm things up to help your engine turn over easier when starting. I took a battery charger and used it a couple of mornings when the battery was slow in turning the engine over. I parked close enough to my motel room so I could run an extension cord out to the vehicle. Be careful when jumping a battery in cold weather. You don't want it to explode in your face.

One of the unique items I took was one of those new ceramic electric heaters. This was useful in heating my sometimes cold hotel room. On occasion, I placed it on the floor of the vehicle, hooked it up and was ready to go. In the morning when I got up, the first thing I did was turn on all the electric devices. This would help ensure a good start by the time I was ready to hit the road.

I took along a Coleman Peak Stove for any emergency cooking. If I had a problem with the oil getting too stiff, I could place the stove under the oil pan and heat up the thickened oil. Along with the stove I took a Coleman lantern, a candle lantern and a number of extra candles. One homemade item I had was a long burning candle made from a 9-inch metal cookie tin, old candles and wax. By pouring hot wax into the tin with four candles standing up I created an excellent light and cooking source. I kept this inside the vehicle at all times, along with matches.

For emergency food I took a couple of cases of meals ready to eat (MRE) and a 25-pound bag of rice. I had no plans on eating this stuff, but it was there just in case. I had an ice chest with me for holding items such as soda in that I didn't want to freeze and burst.

As you read this article you will get the feeling that I took a lot of items with me that I would never use. The idea was not to have to use any of the survival items, but to have them just in case. There are spots on the Alaskan Highway where you can be 50 miles in either direction from help. In the summertime this is no real problem, people are always coming by and the



# Alaskan Highway



A Hi-Lift Jack, shovel, steel cable and come-a-long pulley system would be extremely useful if you make a side trip into a snowbank or ditch.



A good rifle and shotgun are recommended for the trip but do not bring any handguns.

code of the Alaskan Highway is you will stop and offer whatever help you can. This is not the case in winter. You can drive for hours and not see another vehicle.

The highway is a major trucking route; however, trucks are not allowed to run on statute holidays in Canada. Because of this, a lot of the gas stations and businesses that stay open in the winter to service the truckers are not open on these holidays.

An electric hot plate was very useful. At night in the motel, if I didn't want to go out to eat I could cook up some canned "what-ever" and save myself having to make another trip out in the cold. In the morning I would boil up a thermos full of hot water for making coffee during the day's driving.

There were no plans to camp because of the extreme cold, but I did have sleeping bags inside my vehicle. If I got stuck someplace I could at least keep from freezing until help arrived. I actually took two and placed one inside the other for extra warmth.

You need to have a tool box with assorted tools and repair items, such as extra fan belts and hose repair kits. A tire repair kit along with a portable 12-volt air pump could be useful. A couple of flashlights and some spare bulbs and batteries are needed. Extreme cold tends to make your batteries function weaker than normal. Road flares and the new chemical lightsticks are useful.

A fire extinguisher that is readily available inside the vehicle so as not to freeze is strongly recommended. If you have a small fire there is no one who can come to your aid soon enough to keep your vehicle from burning up.

For traction, besides your tire chains, a bag of sand, salt or even kitty litter should go with you. Placing this in front of and behind a slippery and spinning tire will help you get that needed traction. A good shovel and ax should accompany you. Make sure both are sharpened before you start the trip.

I carried a Hi-Lift Jack and come-a-long pulley system, along with a heavy duty chain and two 30-foot steel cables with hooks on both ends. This was in case I really got stuck I could winch myself out. A couple of pulleys can make a vehicle recovery operation go even smoother. The Hi-Lift Jack is an excellent item to have. If you slide into a ditch you use it to lift the vehicle to put the chains on or place logs under the tires for traction. Then you use the Hi-Lift Jack as a winch and pull the vehicle free. The item is a real must.

I personally would not travel the Alaskan Highway without a firearm or two, however, the Canadians have different gun laws. Handguns are completely out. You simply cannot take them through Canada. Rifles and shotguns are allowed, but they have to have a barrel of at least 18½ inches in length. This can cause you a problem since a rifle can be bought in the U.S. with a 16-inch barrel and shotguns with an 18-inch barrel. Make sure you measure the barrels prior to leaving the U.S. The Canadians will check thoroughly and you could waste a day making arrangements to take care of any firearms that do not meet Canadian standards.

You have to plan out your personal clothing for the trip. Get rid of cotton blue jeans and tennis shoes. Wool is the material of choice, followed by the synthetic materials that retain body warmth. Don't just buy a big parka and figure that is all you will need. Layering is the only way to dress. Start with long underwear, followed by wool shirts and sweaters than can be taken off and put on as needed. The inside of your vehicle will not stay as warm as you would like even with the heat turned all the way up. Do not get out of your vehicle without your coat, hat, and gloves on. It takes very little time to contract frostbite in the Yukon. Make sure you have some type of extreme cold weather footwear and you can change your socks twice a day.

If you are pulling a trailer you need a spare tire and an extra trailer hitch ball. I saw a guy who snapped his trailer ball off in the middle of nowhere and did not have a spare. He was stranded and freezing.

Plan your trip out well ahead of time. If you take the items that I recommended more than likely when you reach Alaska uneventfully, you will be wondering why you brought along all that junk. If you have an emergency on the way, it will not be thought of as junk. Your winter trip on the Alaskan Highway can be a real adventure or an absolute disaster and, in most cases, it will be up to you how the trip will turn out. My recommendation is *do it, enjoy it*, and take your camera. Remember you will have claim to some outstanding bragging rights after the trip. A few pictures will go a long way for your image as a person of the Northwoods. ●



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